

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website:www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Norway killer Found insane

BJOERN H. AMLAND

KARL RITTER

Associated Press

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Confessed mass killer Anders Behring Breivik belongs in psychiatric care instead of prison, Norwegian prosecutors said Tuesday after a mental evaluation declared him legally insane during a bomb-and-shooting rampage that killed 77 people.

The court-ordered assess-



Norway's twin terror attacks suspect Anders Behring Breivik, left, as he sits in an armored police vehicle after leaving the courthouse following a hearing in Oslo. The forensic psychiatrists who evaluated the mental state of confessed mass killer Anders Behring Breivik handed over their assessment to a Norwegian court on Tuesday Nov. 29, 2011. The report will help determine whether the 32-year-old right-wing extremist can be held criminally liable for a bomb-and-shooting massacre in which 77 people were killed on July 22. (AP Photo/Jon-Are Berg-Jacobsen)

ment found that the self-styled anti-Muslim militant was psychotic during the July 22 attacks, which would make him mentally unfit to be convicted and imprisoned for the country's worst peacetime massacre. □

Heated Relations



An Iranian hard-line protester watches as a diplomatic vehicle, set on fire by demonstrators who stormed the British Embassy, burns in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011. Dozens of hard-line Iranian students stormed the British Embassy in Tehran on Tuesday, bringing down the Union Jack flag and throwing documents from windows in scenes reminiscent of the anger against Western powers after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. The mob moved into the diplomatic compound two days after Iran's parliament approved a bill that reduces diplomatic relations with Britain following London's support of recently upgraded Western sanctions on Tehran over its disputed nuclear program. (AP Photo/Vahid Salemi)

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Protesters devastate British embassy in Tehran

Continued from Front

ALAN COWELL
RICK GLADSTONE

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LONDON — In the latest sign of deteriorating relations with the West, a group of Iranian protesters stormed the British Embassy compound in Tehran on Tuesday, chanting "death to England," tearing down a British flag and ransacking offices, according to British officials and images broadcast live on state-run Iranian television. The episode came a day after Iran enacted legislation to downgrade relations with Britain in retaliation for intensified sanctions imposed by Western nations last week to punish the Iranians for their suspected nuclear development program. Britain promised to respond "robustly." The British Foreign Office in London said in a statement that



Iranian protesters break the windows of a British Embassy building, in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011. Dozens of hard-line Iranian students stormed the British Embassy in Tehran on Tuesday, bringing down the Union Jack flag and throwing documents from windows in scenes reminiscent of the anger against Western powers after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. The mob moved into the diplomatic compound two days after Iran's parliament approved a bill that reduces diplomatic relations with Britain following London's support of recently upgraded Western sanctions on Tehran over its disputed nuclear program.

(AP Photo/Vahid Salemi)

there had been an "incursion by a significant number of demonstrators into our embassy premises, including vandalism to our property." "This is a fluid situation and details are still emerging," the statement said. "It is utterly unacceptable and we condemn it," the Foreign Office statement said, adding that Iranian authorities had "a clear duty" under international law "to protect diplomats and embassies in their country." "We expect them to act urgently to bring the situation under control and ensure the safety of our staff and security of our property," the statement said. There was no immediate word on the whereabouts of the embassy staff, but an Iranian news agency said personnel had fled "by the back door." The Associated Press identified the intruders as hard-line Iranian students, who were said to have burst into the building and thrown docu-

ments from windows. They also chanted: "The embassy of Britain should be taken over." The invaders threw stones at windows, and one was seen climbing over the high wall around the compound with an apparently looted portrait of Queen Elizabeth II. While some reports said the protesters clashed with riot police, other accounts said the authorities did nothing to prevent the attack. While a small group of people entered the embassy, hundreds more gathered outside demanding the immediate departure of the British ambassador. Demonstrators waved flags symbolizing martyrdom and held up portraits of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Reuters reported, adding that a second British compound in northern Tehran had also been attacked by demonstrators who seized what the state IRNA news agency called "classified documents." □

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Huge growth, and new faces, in line for free school lunches

SAM DILLON

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Robbie Brown and Kimberly McGee contributed reporting. Robert Gebeloff contributed research.

Millions of schoolchildren in the U.S. are receiving free or low-cost meals for the first time as their parents, many once solidly middle-class, have lost jobs or homes during the economic crisis, qualifying their families for the decades-old safety-net program. The number of students receiving subsidized lunches rose to 21 million last school year from 18 million in 2006-7, a 17 percent increase, according



Students eat a free dinner meal at Ingels Elementary School, in Kansas City, Mo. Millions of American schoolchildren are receiving free or low-cost meals for the first time as their parents, many once solidly middle-class, have lost jobs or homes during the economic crisis.

(Steve Hebert/The New York Times)

UK tabloid reporter:

Phone hacking a regular tool

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A former reporter at Britain's News of the World has made a rare, robust defense of phone hacking, telling Britain's media ethics inquiry that eavesdropping on voicemails was a "perfectly acceptable tool" to help journalists uncover stories.

Paul McMullan said Tuesday that hacking was common at the now-defunct tabloid, describing how reporters traded the phone numbers of celebrities and accessed their messages by entering factory-set passcodes.

"I think I swapped Sylvester

Stallone's mother for David Beckham," he said, going on to recount how he failed to hack into Beckham's voicemails on one occasion because the soccer star unexpectedly answered the phone.

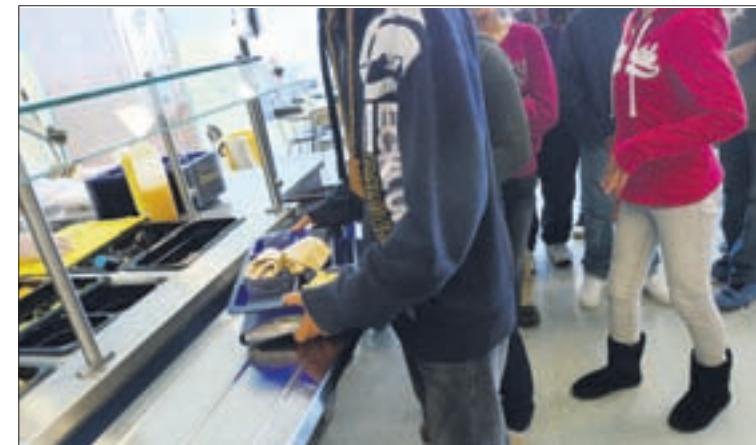
McMullan, who now runs a pub in the English port of Dover, made headlines earlier this year when he was secretly taped by actor Hugh Grant claiming phone hacking was widespread at the News of the World and other U.K. newspapers.

He repeated that assertion Tuesday, adding that the bosses at the News of

the World, including former top editors Andy Coulson and Rebekah Brooks, knew of the practice — a claim both former editors have denied. Both resigned in the scandal — Brooks from a senior role in Rupert Murdoch's media empire, and Coulson from his job as top communications aide to Prime Minister David Cameron. "I don't think anyone realized that anyone was committing a crime at the start," McMullan said. "Phone hacking is a perfectly acceptable tool given the sacrifices we make, if all we are trying to do is get to the truth." □

to an analysis by The New York Times of data from the Department of Agriculture, which administers the meals program. Eleven states, including Florida, Nevada,

collapse of the construction industry has caused hardship, 15,000 additional students joined the subsidized lunch program this fall. In Rochester, N.Y., un-



New Jersey and Tennessee, had four-year increases of 25 percent or more, huge shifts in a vast program long characterized by incremental growth.

The Agriculture Department has not yet released data for September and October. "These are very large increases and a direct reflection of the hardships American families are facing," said Benjamin Senauer, a University of Minnesota economist who studies the meals program, adding that the surge had happened so quickly "that people like myself who do research are struggling to keep up with it."

In Sylva, N.C., layoffs at lumber and paper mills have driven hundreds of new students onto free lunch rolls. In Las Vegas, where the

employed engineers and technicians have signed up their children after the downsizing of Kodak and other companies forced them from their jobs. Many of these formerly middle-income parents have pleaded with school officials to keep their enrollment a secret.

Students in families with incomes up to 130 percent of the poverty level — \$29,055 for a family of four — are eligible for free school meals. Children in a four-member household with income up to \$41,348 qualify for a subsidized lunch priced at 40 cents. Among the first to call attention to the increases were Department of Education officials who use subsidized lunch rates as a poverty indicator in federal testing. □



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Jackson doctor called suicidal after verdict

LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A judge's stern voice broke the silence of a Los Angeles courtroom: "Money for madness medicine," he said before sentencing Dr. Conrad Murray to the maximum four years behind bars for Michael Jackson's death.

"Absolutely no sense of fault, and is and remains dangerous" to the community, Judge Michael Pastor said as he delivered a nearly half-hour tongue lashing that denounced Murray as a greedy, remorseless physician whose gross negligence killed the King of Pop.

Pastor said Murray sold out his profession for a promised fee of \$150,000 a month and accused Murray of committing a "horrible violation of trust" when he agreed to give Jackson a powerful anesthetic every night as an unorthodox cure for insomnia.

Murray will likely serve less than two years in county jail, not state prison, because of California's overcrowded prisons and jails. Sheriff's officials said he will be housed in a one-man cell and be kept away from other inmates.

The tall, imposing Murray, who has been in jail for three weeks, was allowed to change into street clothes — a charcoal gray suit and white shirt — for court. But he wore prison issue white socks and soft slippers.

Jackson's family said in a statement read in court

that they were not seeking revenge but a stiff sentence for Murray that served as a warning to opportunistic doctors. After-

ward, they said they were pleased with the judge's sentence.

"We're going to be a family. We're going to move

forward. We're going to tour, play the music and miss him," brother Jermaine Jackson said.

After sentencing, Murray mouthed the words "I love you" to his mother and girlfriend in the courtroom. Murray's mother, Miltia Rush, sat alone on a bench in the courthouse hallway.

"My son is not what they charged him to be," she said quietly. "He was a gentle child from the time he was small."

Of her son's future, she said, "God is in charge."

Murray, 58, was convicted of involuntary manslaughter after a six-week trial that presented the most detailed account yet of Jackson's final hours, a story of the performer's anguish over being unable to sleep. Pastor was relentless in his bashing of Murray, saying the physician lied repeatedly and abandoned

Jackson when he was at his most vulnerable — under the anesthesia that Murray administered in an unorthodox effort to induce sleep. "It should be made very clear that experimental medicine is not going to be tolerated, and Mr. Jackson was an experiment," he said.

Propofol is supposed to be used in hospital settings and has never been approved for sleep treatments, yet Murray acknowledged giving it to Jackson then leaving the room on the day the singer died.

As for defense arguments that Jackson tempted his own fate when he demanded propofol, Pastor said, "Dr. Murray could have walked away and said no as countless others did. But Dr. Murray was intrigued with the prospect of this money-for-madness medicine." □



Dr. Conrad Murray turns to the courtroom audience after his sentencing at the Los Angeles County courthouse, in Los Angeles, Nov. 29, 2011. Murray, the physician found guilty of involuntary manslaughter in the 2009 death of Michael Jackson, was sentenced to four years, the maximum amount of time he was fac-

(Mario Anzuoni/Pool via The New York Times)

Tea Party support falls even in strongholds

KATE ZERNIKE
© 2011 New York Times

Support for the Tea Party — and with it, the Republican Party — has fallen even sharply even in places considered Tea Party strongholds, according to an analysis of new polls.

In congressional districts represented by Tea Party lawmakers, the number of people saying they disagree with the movement has risen significantly since it powered a Republican sweep in midterm elections; almost as many people disagree with it as agree with

it, according to the analysis by the Pew Research Center. Support for the Republican Party has fallen even further in those places than it has in the country as a whole. In the 60 districts represented in Congress by a member of the House Tea Party Caucus, Republicans are now viewed about as negatively as Democrats.

The analysis suggests that the Tea Party may be dragging down the Republican Party heading into a presidential election year, even as it ushered in a new Republican majority in the

House of Representatives just a year ago.

Other polls have shown a decline in support for the Tea Party and its positions, particularly because its hard line during the debate over the debt ceiling and deficit reduction made it less an abstraction than it was a year ago. In earlier polls, most Americans did not know enough about the Tea Party to offer an opinion.

"We know that the image of the GOP has slipped, but to see it slip so dramatically in Tea Party districts is pretty

surprising," said Andrew Kohut, president of the Pew Center. "You think of those as bedrock Republican districts. They are the base."

The number of people who disagree with the Tea Party has also risen among the general public, according to the most recent of the polls in the Pew analysis, taken this month. Among the public, 27 percent said they disagreed with the Tea Party and 20 percent said they agreed — a reversal from a year ago, when 27 percent agreed and 22 percent disagreed. □



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Romney campaign hits back on 'flip-flop' charges

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mitt Romney confronted allegations from Democrats and a Republican rival that he has changed his positions on key issues, the first time the 2012 presidential campaign has focused squarely on what many see as the candidate's biggest political liability.

The former Massachusetts governor hastily arranged for supporters to hold conference calls with reporters to combat a new Democratic National Committee ad that highlights his changed positions on abortion, immigration, guns and other issues. And Romney also took fire from former House Speaker Newt Gingrich. Gingrich, fresh from an important endorsement in New Hampshire, told a South Carolina radio audience that "it's wrong to go around and adopt radically different positions based on your need of any one election." The lines of attack showed that leaders of both parties see Romney as the Republican frontrunner, with the leadoff

Iowa caucuses five weeks away. The criticism also sharpened the campaign rhetoric only days after Romney raised eyebrows with a TV ad that quoted President Barack Obama out of context.

The trading of blows had to compete for attention with the latest setback for businessman Herman Cain, who surged to the top of Republican opinion polls at one point but has recently faded. A Georgia woman said Monday she had had a 13-year affair with him. Cain, who is married, denied the allegation. His lawyer said "private alleged consensual conduct between adults" should not be a subject of campaign coverage. Romney supporters say Obama is eager to turn attention away from the weak economy. But the urgency of his campaign's reaction to the Democratic ad suggested he sees the flip-flop accusations as serious. Details of Romney's shifts on key issues are not new. Yet they have played only a periph-

etrical role in the eight-person Republican nominating contest so far, to the dismay of some Democrats. In a career that includes an unsuccessful Senate race and one term as governor in Democratic-leaning Massachusetts, plus a 2008 presidential bid, Romney at times has favored legalized abortion, a ban on assault weapons and a pathway to legal status for some illegal immigrants. He since has rejected those views. He also takes a harder line than before on government stimulus programs and bank bailouts. Romney's health care initiative in Massachusetts required residents to obtain medical insurance, but he rejects the notion that it was a model for Obama's national health care reform plan enacted last year. □

Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney signs autographs after speaking at a campaign stop, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011, in Medley, Fla. While others focus on Iowa's caucuses or the early primaries in New Hampshire and South Carolina, Romney is set to spend the day in the state welcoming endorsements from three top Cuban-American Republicans, attending several fundraisers and visiting the port in Tampa to discuss trade policy. (AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee)



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Hackers post UN staffer user names, passwords

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — A hackers group calling itself "Team Poison" has posted what it says are the user names and passwords of more than 100 United Nations staffers' email accounts it pulled from a U.N. computer server. Many of the accounts post-

ed on pastebin.com website appear to belong to U.N. Development Program staffers.

A telephone call seeking comment from a UNDP spokeswoman in New York was not immediately returned Wednesday evening.

Team Poison is among sev-

eral politically motivated cyber activists or activist groups whose stunts are prompting increased police attention.

Generally known as "hacktivists," they've targeted a series of government, military and intelligence-related websites across the globe. □



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Cain tells aides he is reassessing his campaign

STEVEN R. HURST

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican presidential hopeful Herman Cain told campaign aides Tuesday that he was reassessing his bid for his party's nomination a day after a businesswoman alleged she and Cain had a long extramarital affair.

Should he leave the race, the already topsy-turvy contest for the Republican nomination could become even more chaotic as the seven other candidates battle for Cain supporters with just over a month remaining before the first state-by-state contest to choose next year's challenger to President Barack Obama.

Cain shot to the top of the

Republican field in late September and early October with his folksy style and flat tax reform program. But he was never seen as the likely nominee, and his support began to crumble

after publicity about alleged sexual harassment surfaced a month ago. He has also stumbled badly on important questions about U.S. foreign policy and had voiced ambigu-

ation of anonymity because of the private nature of the conversation, said that as part of that assessment, Cain's campaign is examining the impact of the newest allegations. This person described the tone as positive but also said there was some uncertainty coming from Cain.

"He said obviously it's taken an emotional toll on his family, but he's moving ahead with the campaign," said Steve Grubbs, Cain's campaign chairman in Iowa, the state that starts the nominating season in January. "He said that they will be reassessing the campaign."

Grubbs added: "He said this lady was a friend, someone he thought was a friend, that he was trying to help out financially and had been a friend for some period of time. But that nothing inappropriate occurred."

"Yes," said J.D. Gordon, Cain's spokesman, when asked early Tuesday whether Cain is definitely staying in the race.

After the conference call, Cain attorney Linn Wood told The Associated Press: "Any report that Mr. Cain has decided to withdraw his candidacy is inaccurate."

"I think they are assessing the situation, just as I would expect the campaign to do or any prudent business person to do," said Wood. He added that he would hate to see what he described as false accusations drive Cain out of the race for the presidency.

As Cain's troubles began sapping support, Newt Gingrich, a former speaker of the House of Representatives, has moved into first place ahead of Mitt Romney, according to a Real Clear Politics average of

four national polls. Cain was in third place before the most recent allegations about his sexual behavior. Those first became known with allegations that Cain, a former pizza chain executive, sexually harassed women who worked for the National Restaurant Association when he ran the trade group in the 1990s. Gingrich, who has seen his political standing rise as he has posted solid debate performances, has become the latest challenger to Romney, whose poll numbers have dipped slightly. Romney is the favorite of the Republican establishment but deeply distrusted by party conservatives and evangelical Christians who see his record as too moderate.

The Real Clear Politics average shows Gingrich with a 2.5 percentage-point edge over Romney.

Gingrich has rebounded from his campaign's near collapse this summer, when much of his staff resigned.

So far Rep. Michele Bachmann, Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Cain have made a serious run at Romney before falling from favor and quickly drifting out of contention as deeply conservative Republican primary voters search for an alternative to Romney, the former Massachusetts governor and venture capitalist. Beyond his moderate record, many conservatives view Romney as too ready to shift positions on issues held dear by the party's base.

Gingrich, after focusing his fire on Obama, has begun attacking Romney, branding him as a political opportunist.

"We think there has to be a solid conservative alternative to Mitt Romney," Gingrich said Monday. □



Republican presidential candidate Herman Cain speaks at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Mich., Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011. Cain told aides earlier in the day on Tuesday he is assessing whether the latest allegations of inappropriate sexual behavior against him "create too much of a cloud" for his Republican presidential candidacy to go forward. (AP Photo/Rick Osentoski)

ous responses to questions about his stand on abortion, always a divisive issue in American politics.

Cain has fiercely denied the affair as well as several other accusations of inappropriate sexual behavior that have surfaced over the past month, and he has repeatedly vowed to stay in the race.

He told senior staff in a mid-morning conference call lasting roughly 10 minutes that all public events will go forward this week but he will review the campaign's strategy over the next several days.

One participant on the call, speaking on the con-



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Medal of Honor recipient sues defense contractor

PAUL J. WEBER
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A U.S. Marine given the nation's highest award for valor is suing a defense contractor that he says ridiculed his Medal of Honor, called him mentally unstable and suggested he had a drinking problem, thereby costing him a job. Dakota Meyer became just the third living recipient of the Medal of Honor in September, two years after the young corporal saved 36 lives during a six-hour ambush in Afghanistan. President Barack Obama praised Meyer, 23, for his humility and work ethic and treated him to a beer in the Rose Garden. But Meyer says in a defamation lawsuit filed in Texas that his former employer, BAE Systems OASYS Inc., ruined his chances at landing a new job by telling a prospective employer that he was a poor worker during a three-month stint earlier this year.

A BAE Systems manager said Meyer "was mentally unstable, that Sgt. Meyer was not performing BAE tasks assigned and that Sgt. Meyer had a problem related to drinking in a social setting," according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit, first reported by The Wall Street Journal, seeks unspecified damages.

BAE Systems spokesman Brian Roehrkasse told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the company was grateful to Meyer for his bravery but strongly disagreed with his claims. He called Meyer's actions in

Afghanistan "heroic" and wished him success. Attorneys for Meyer did not immediately return a phone message Tuesday.

sales of weapons systems to Pakistan, and sent an email to his supervisor expressing his disapproval.

Meyer wrote that it was

ing to the lawsuit. Roehrkasse, the BAE spokesman, said it is the State Department and not BAE that makes the decision on which defense-related products can be exported. "In recent years, the U.S. Government has approved the export of defense-related goods from numerous defense companies to Pakistan as part of the United States' bilateral relationship with that country," Roehrkasse said.

Meyer claims his supervisor began berating and belittling him after sending the email, at one point allegedly taunting him about his Medal of Honor by calling it Meyer's "pending star status." That supervisor, Bobby McCreight, is also named in the lawsuit and is still employed by BAE. Roehrkasse said McCreight is a former

decorated Marine sniper. Meyer resigned from BAE in May. He then tried obtaining a job at a former employer, San Diego-based Ausgar Technologies, but the lawsuit claims the opportunity fell through after McCreight characterized Meyer as a poor employee during a conversation with a manager who had to approve new hires.

"Bottom line, it was determined that ... you were not recommended to be placed back on the team due to being mentally unstable and no (sic) performing on OASYS tasks assigned," according to an email from an AUSGAR manager included in the lawsuit.

Valerie Ellis, an administrator at Ausgar, said the company had no comment when reached Tuesday. □



Medal of Honor recipient, former U.S. Marine Sgt. Dakota Meyer, wears his medal after it was awarded to him by President Barack Obama, during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington. Meyer is suing a defense contractor that he says cost him a job by characterizing him as mentally unstable and having alcohol problems to a prospective employer.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

Meyer was working construction in his home state of Kentucky when he was awarded the Medal of Honor in a ceremony at the White House.

According to the lawsuit filed Monday, BAE hired Meyer in March but the relationship quickly soured. Meyer said he became dismayed in April upon learning that BAE had pursued

"disturbing" how U.S. troops were being issued outdated equipment when better, advanced thermal optic scopes were being offered to Pakistan.

"We are simply taking the best gear, the best technology on the market to date and giving to guys who that are known to stab us in the back," Meyer wrote in the email, accord-

Enron case was much bigger than FBI thought

TOM FOWLER

© 2011 Houston Chronicle

When Mike Anderson launched the FBI's investigation of Enron's collapse in early December 2001, he thought assigning a couple of agents to the case would be a good start. "I knew it was going to be a big case," said Anderson, assistant special agent in charge of the white-collar crime group in Houston. "But I think I was a little naïve about how big." Within a few weeks, the investigation had exploded into a national task force with dozens of agents, prosecutors and other specialists working on it from coast to coast. "It was the biggest FBI investigation at the time and remains one of the most complex in the history of the bureau," Anderson said.

The investigation started off looking at three areas: the LJM partnerships that Enron Chief Financial Officer Andrew Fastow created to help Enron move assets off the balance sheet; the way the energy trading business's reserves were used to cover losses in other units; and possible insider trading. □

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US scrambles to contain Pakistan fallout

BRADLEY KLAPPER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration scrambled diplomatically Tuesday to repair the damage caused by a NATO air assault that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers, hoping Pakistan will not play spoiler in the U.S.-backed plan to shore up Afghanistan's security and bring international forces home. Senior State and Defense Department officials were reaching out to their counterparts in Islamabad, while the first battlefield accounts suggested that NATO and Pakistani forces may have attacked one another in a tragic case of mistaken identity, with each believing the other was Taliban. A U.S. investigation was under way into the incident, the deadliest among allies in the decade-long fight against al-Qaida and other extremist groups along the



Pakistani students protest against NATO and United States in Lahore, Pakistan Tuesday, Nov 29, 2011. Pakistani officials say the country will boycott an upcoming meeting in Germany on the future of Afghanistan to protest a deadly attack by U.S.-led forces on its troops.

(AP Photo/K.M.Chaudary)

Afghan-Pakistani frontier. Its findings may not come fast enough as Pakistani repercussions are already mounting: closed border crossings for NATO supplies and troops, and Tuesday's decision by Islamabad to withdraw from a U.S.-backed meeting on

Afghanistan taking place next week in Bonn, Germany. "Pakistan has a crucial role to play in supporting a secure and stable and prosperous Afghanistan," State Department spokesman Mark Toner said Tuesday. "It's absolutely

critical that Afghanistan's neighbors play a role in its future development, and certainly its relationship with Pakistan has been critical in that regard."

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and CIA Director David Petraeus went to patch up the relationship marred by fights over the arrest of a U.S. intelligence contractor, the American operation to kill Osama bin Laden and repeated disagreements over the links between Pakistani intelligence and militant groups in Afghanistan. Last week, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Daniel Allyn reported improved cooperation along the border and a tapering in incidents of gunfire from Pakistani territory. Officials also have described better U.S.-Pakistani understanding at the po-

litical level, which will only become more significant as the United States pulls its troops out of Afghanistan in the next three years and relies on Pakistan to broker reconciliation talks between the U.S.-backed Afghan government and the Taliban-led insurgency. The improvements are now at risk of unraveling. Administration officials are leaving the door open for Pakistan to reverse course and commit to the Bonn conference, but are more perturbed by the idea of a substantial change in Pakistani policy toward Afghanistan. They do not know if the Bonn decision reflects merely another slap at the United States, or if it reflects a broader move away from the U.S. strategy for withdrawing from Afghanistan. □

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Biden visits Iraq ahead of US troop departure

REBECCA SANTANA

SINAN SALAHEDDIN

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Vice

President Joe Biden arrived on a surprise visit to Iraq late Tuesday in a trip designed to chart a new relationship between the two countries after all American forces have left the country in just over a month.

After nearly nine years of war, the U.S. now must navigate a future without American troops in Iraq. Iraq's vast oil resources, the massive U.S. Embassy presence here and Iraq's strategic location in the Middle East — next to Iran — ensure American interest will remain high in Iraq even after the troops are gone.

"It's good to be back," Biden said during a meeting at the embassy with U.S. Ambassador to Iraq James F. Jeffrey and the top American commander in Iraq, Gen. Lloyd Austin. Austin and Jeffrey met Biden at the airport when he landed.

Baghdad and Washington failed earlier this year to come to an agreement on

keeping a small American military presence in Iraq next year, meaning all U.S. forces must be out of the country by Dec. 31. Some 13,000 U.S. troops remain, down from a one-time high of about 170,000.

The issue of what type of military relationship Iraq and the U.S. will have next year and into the future is expected to dominate Biden's visit. His trip will also lay the groundwork for Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's Dec. 12 visit to Washington. Biden also will take part in a ceremony commemorating the sacrifices of U.S. and Iraqi troops.

Iraqi leaders have said they want U.S. military training help for their security forces but have been unable to agree on what type of help they'd like or what protections they would be willing to give the American military trainers.

The U.S. ambassador told reporters that the U.S. is trying to assess how "we can support Iraq, particularly to develop their conventional capabilities, and to continue the fight against terror."



U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, right, is seen with Ambassador to Iraq James F. Jeffrey in Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011. Biden arrived on a surprise visit to Iraq late Tuesday in a trip designed to chart a new relationship between the two countries after all American forces have left the country in just over a month.

(AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

"This is a very, very important joint priority of ours. The al-Qaida in Iraq organization is still active particularly in the north but they strike throughout the country," he said.

In the week leading up to

Biden's visit, Iraq has seen an uptick in violence that has renewed concerns about the abilities of the country's security forces. A suicide bomber slammed a car packed with explosives into the gate of a

prison north of Baghdad on Monday, killing at least 19 people. On Saturday a string of explosions killed 15 people. Three days earlier, a triple bombing in the southern city of Basra killed 19 people. □

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Chilean judge charges ex-US military officer

EVA VERGARA
Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — A judge investigating abuses during Chile's dictatorship is seeking the extradition of a former U.S. military officer on murder charges in the 1973 killing of two Americans, including one whose disappearance was the focus of the film "Missing," court officials said Tuesday. Former U.S. Navy Capt. Ray E. Davis was charged in the deaths of journalist Charles Horman and U.S. student Frank Teruggi, who were killed during the 1973-1990 regime of Gen. Augusto Pinochet. The court statement said retired Chilean army Brigadier Pedro Espinoza Bravo was also charged in the murders. Judge Jorge Zepeda asked Chile's Supreme Court to authorize an extradition request so that Davis may be tried in Chile, the court said in its statement. Davis was the commander of the U.S. military mission in Chile at the time of the coup that toppled socialist President Salvador Allende, working as a liaison between the U.S. and Chilean militaries. His current whereabouts were not immediately clear. Espinoza is jailed in a special Chilean prison for offenders convicted of human rights abuses serving sentences in separate cases. □

Ivory Coast's Gbagbo en route to Hague

LAURA BURKE
RUKMINI CALLIMACHI
Associated Press

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)

— Ivory Coast's former strongman, who nearly dragged his country into civil war in a bid to retain power, is being extradited to the International Criminal Court following the issue of a warrant for his arrest, his spokesman said Tuesday.

The ex-president has been under house arrest in the tiny village of Korhogo over 300 miles (500 kilometers) north of Abidjan since being ousted by internationally backed forces seven months ago.

In Abidjan, Gbagbo's spokesman Kone Katinan confirmed that the former ruler had left the remote village in a special flight headed to The Hague. "He's in the plane," Katinan said.

The public prosecutor's office in Ivory Coast said



Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo, left, meets United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon at the United Nations in New York. The International Criminal Court on Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011 issued an arrest warrant for Ivory Coast's former strongman, who refused to accept his loss in last year's election and nearly dragged the country into civil war in a bid to stay in power.

(AP Photos/Bebeto Matthews, File)

Gbagbo changed planes in Bouake, the regional capital, before continuing to the Netherlands.

"I can confirm that he left Korhogo at 6:31 p.m. GMT. He is passing through Bouake, because the land-

ing strip in Korhogo can only accommodate a small plane."

Gbagbo's Paris-based lawyer Emmanuel Altit said he had filed an appeal to stop the international arrest warrant issued Tuesday through

Ivory Coast state prosecutors, but acknowledged that if it's not granted, the ex-president would be transferred overnight.

The development, which comes almost exactly a year to the day after Ivory Coast's disputed presidential election, was applauded by victims of Gbagbo's regime and by rights groups because of the signal it sends against impunity.

Once he arrives in The Hague, Gbagbo will become the first former head of state to be taken into custody by the tribunal since its founding in 2002. Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir has been indicted, though he refuses to surrender, while former Liberian warlord Charles Taylor and Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic have been tried there by special ad hoc tribunals, rather than the world court.

FARC blames Colombia for captives' deaths

FRANK BAJAK
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Colombia's main leftist rebel group is blaming President Juan Manuel Santos' government for the weekend deaths of four security force members who authorities say were cruelly executed when soldiers happened upon the insurgents holding them.

The Revolutionary Armed

Forces of Colombia, or FARC, claims in a statement published online Tuesday that the four were killed during an army rescue mission aimed at preventing the rebels from releasing the captives unilaterally — something the group has done in the past as a goodwill gesture. All of the hostages had been held captive for at least 12 years.

"We profoundly regret the

tragic ending of the demented rescue attempt ordered by the Colombian government," the FARC's ruling seven-man secretariat said in the statement dated Monday and posted on a pro-rebel website.

The insurgents did not refer to the FARC's execution Saturday of the three police officers and one soldier. Colombia's chief coroner said Tuesday that three of

the men were shot in the back of the head from a distance of less than 5 feet (1.5 meters) and the fourth was also shot from behind. A fifth captive, police Sgt. Luis Alberto Erazo, 48, saved himself Saturday by fleeing into the jungle. The FARC said it was planning to unilaterally release the men and had informed a go-between, former Sen. Piedad Cordoba, of its intent. □

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Palestinian leader reaffirms UN membership bid

EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas reaffirmed Palestine's bid for U.N. membership on Tuesday, saying it should complement peace negotiations provided that Israel is prepared to negotiate on the basis of 1967 borders.

He said Palestine's decision to apply to join the United Nations "is our legitimate right" based on the 1947 U.N. resolution to partition Palestine into two states.

"We do not want and we do not seek to delegitimize Israel by applying for membership in the United Nations, but to delegitimize its settlement activities and



Austrian President Heinz Fischer and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, from left, review the honor guard during a welcome ceremony at the Hofburg palace in Vienna, Austria.

(AP Photo/Ronald Zak)

the seizure of our occupied lands," Abbas said.

Abbas' message for the international day of solidarity

with the Palestinian people was read by the Palestinian U.N. observer, Riyad Mansour. The day was chosen

US appeals Portugal denial of extradition

ALAN CLENDENNING

BARRY HATTON

Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — The U.S. Department of Justice announced Tuesday it has appealed a Portuguese judge's decision denying the extradition of an American fugitive who spent 41 years on the lam on three continents.

The appeal to extradite George Wright was filed with the Portuguese Court of Appeals, but U.S. Department of Justice spokeswoman Laura Sweeney declined to provide the legal arguments for it because in Portugal extradition cases are conducted in secret.

Wright's lawyer, Manuel Luis Ferreira, declined to comment on the appeal, saying he had not been officially informed of it. Wright, his

Portuguese wife and their two grown children were jubilant Nov. 17 when a Portuguese judge decided against Wright's extradition. The judge ruled that Wright, 68, had become a Portuguese citizen and that the statute of limitations on his 15- to 30-year sentence for a robbery-murder in New Jersey had expired, Ferreira said. Wright spent seven years in a U.S. prison for murder before escaping in 1970. He then hijacked a plane in 1972 from the U.S. to Algeria along with other Black Liberation Army militants. He was captured in Portugal after his U.S. finger-

print matched one in Portugal's database of prints for all citizens.

Authorities say Wright and three associates had already committed multiple

armed robberies on Nov. 23, 1962, when Walter Patterson was shot dead in his gas station in Wall, New Jersey.

But Wright insisted after his extradition was denied that he never fired a shot in the holdup and pleaded "no defense" to the murder charge because his lawyer advised him to do so to avoid the death penalty.

Wright, who is black, also admitted hijacking the plane "to fight for black rights ... to support the hopes of black people" but said he now is a changed man.

Ann Patterson, the 63-year-old daughter of the gas station owner, said Tuesday that she was pleased American authorities had appealed and hoped it would be successful. □

because on Nov. 29, 1947, the U.N. voted to partition the British mandate of Palestine into two states, one Jewish, one Arab.

The Palestinian leader delivered Palestine's application to become the 194th member of the United Nations to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Sept. 23 before addressing world leaders at the General Assembly. Hours later, the Quartet of Mideast mediators — the U.S., U.N., EU and Russia — called for a resumption of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in a month, with the goal of a peace agreement by the end of 2012.

But talks remain stalled over

Palestinian demands that

Israel stop building on lands

they claim, and agree to

negotiate borders based

on lines Israel held before

capturing the West Bank,

Gaza and east Jerusalem in 1967. Israel rejects those conditions and has defied international pressure to freeze settlement construction. The Palestinian bid for U.N. membership has stalled. The Palestinians have failed to get the required support of nine of the Security Council's 15 members, and the United States has promised to veto any council resolution endorsing membership.

As a backup, the Palestinians may seek to upgrade their U.N. status from a permanent observer to a non-member observer state.

Abbas said in Tuesday's message that sanctions imposed on the Palestinians because they won membership in the Paris-based U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization are "unjust." □

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late show: 11:15 **R**

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN PART 1
daily: 5:30 - 8:15
matinee: 12:00 - 2:45
late show: 11:00 **SP PG-13**

THE BIG YEAR
daily: 9:15
matinee: 11:45 **PG**

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Moving beyond yesterday's burgundy standards

ERIC ASIMOV

© 2011 New York Times

I have never been one of those people who feel they live in the wrong era. I am eternally grateful, for example, to draw breath in the age of anesthesia. But I have occasionally lamented that I was born just a few years too late.

If I'd learned about wine in the 1960s rather than the 1980s, perhaps I, too, could regale you with annoying stories of buying cases of '59 Lafite and '61 Latour for \$8 a bottle. Maybe my cellar, such as it is, would be bulging with grand cru Burgundy that I got for a song because, after all, who back then cared about Burgundy?

By the time I had some money and the inclination to splurge on wine, these historic benchmark wines had become absurdly, ridiculously overpriced.

Consider that back in 1975, Kermit Lynch, the importer and shop owner in Berkeley, Calif., was retailing a case of Domaine Leflaive Bienvenues-Batard-Montrachet 1972 for \$125, not cheap then by any means, but doable for the determined. Adjusted for inflation, this excellent white Burgundy from a decent vintage would be the equivalent of \$500 today. How quaint. Now, at Sherry-Lehmann in New York, a case from the 2008 vintage runs about \$4,800.

Generations of wine lovers learned firsthand of the gorgeous polychromatic potential of wine by drinking those bottles that are almost universally believed to represent the heights of achievement: the first-growth Bordeaux and grand cru Burgundies. Yet an entire younger generation of wine lovers, say those 40-ish and younger, may grow old never having savored a great Musigny or a classic Chateau Latour, unless they are extremely wealthy or very lucky.

Sad, yes. Yet just as certain, we live in the greatest time ever to be wine lovers, with

access to more high-quality wine in more different styles from a greater diversity of places than ever before. Just possibly, this wealth of wonderful choices is due partly to the soaring cost of those reference points for greatness.

wines, yet with a public thirst for greatness that far exceeds that of 30 years ago, importers, distributors, sommeliers and consumers themselves have been compelled to seek out wines that nobody paid attention to 25 years ago, if



Above, Grapes used to make Rioja wine in La Rioja, Spain. Below, Nathan Lee Roberts samples a syrah wine that is still fermenting, at Arnot-Roberts' distillery, in Forestville, Calif. Wine lovers today may never get to taste the great Burgundies and Bordeaux of years gone by, but there is a world of great wines available.

(Matias Costa/The New York Times)



Years ago, a great wine list was essentially a great Bordeaux list, or a great Burgundy list. Sometimes it was both, with a few more selections, of course. In the early 20th century, you would find Champagne, sherry and, if the obstacle of world wars could be skirted, some German riesling and possibly something from Alsace. Later on you'd also find some wines from Napa Valley and Tuscany, depending on the restaurant's cuisine.

Nowadays, the possibilities seem endless. One reason, I submit, is that with little access to the classically great

they even existed. Lynch, in a telephone conversation, argued against including Burgundy in this equation, saying that barely a thimbleful of grand cru is made each year compared with the rivers of top-flight Bordeaux. But he agreed that the attention diverted from Bordeaux had moved to many formerly esoteric regions, and that this new attention was critical to maintaining diversity in the future.

"In the old days, nobody wanted to hear a word about cabernet francs from the Loire," he said. "Today, it's a big market for me." □

Pig wings as tasty morsels take flight

JOHN T. EDGE

© 2011 New York Times

ST. CLOUD, Minn. — Trisha

Roberts set aside her knowledge of animal anatomy and bit into a deep-fried Pig Wing. One recent evening, at a bar near here, she dunked that crisp, juicy knob of pork in sweet chili sauce, then reached for another. But Roberts, a college student and part-time bartender, frowned

which contracts with a local processing company to make the wings, understands that nomenclature can be as important as cooking.

"Let's face it," File said. "Shank is not a pretty word." Like butchers, cooks and restaurateurs before him, File believes in the power of euphemisms to popularize culinary oddballs. Mountain oysters sound more



Bob File, a former pig farmer and the president of Pioneer Meats, grilles Pig Wings and sausage at a customer appreciation event, in Elkhart, Ind. File saw that a catchy name could popularize ham shanks.

(Joe Raymond/The New York Times)

when she learned that these wings were actually 2-ounce bits of pork cut from the fibula of a ham shank. "My relatives, my old uncles, they eat foods like shanks," she said. "They eat brains and other stuff, too. I like these, but shanks sound like those kind of old-fashioned foods." Hearing Roberts' critique, Bob File took a swig from his beer. File, a former pig farmer and the president of Pioneer Meats,

appetizing than calf testicles. Picnic hams sell better than pork shoulder roasts. And would Applebee's be selling millions of riblets if they were more accurately identified as the transverse processes of lumbar vertebrae left over from the boning of pork loins? File first glimpsed the possibilities of the pig's lower back leg in 2003, while selling pork to concessionaires at a NASCAR race. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

US man leaves Aruba jail in missing case

DILMA GEERMAN

Associated Press

ORANJESTAD, Aruba (AP)

— A U.S. businessman was released from jail in Aruba on Tuesday and free to leave the island, although prosecutors continue to try to put him back behind bars as a suspect in the disappearance of his traveling companion.

Gary Giordano left prison in an SUV with his lawyers, entering the vehicle behind a concrete wall so he was hidden from journalists waiting outside. He made no statements as he drove off, followed by a caravan of reporters, his immediate destination unclear. It was too late to catch a direct commercial flight back to the U.S.

Giordano, who denies any wrongdoing in the disappearance of Robyn Gardner, was freed after nearly four months in custody under a court order issued by a judge who ruled prosecutors didn't have enough evidence to justify holding him longer.

Prosecutors say they are still trying to build a case against him and will seek his extradition if an appeals court ruling expected Wednesday issues a reversal and orders the 50-year-old businessman back to jail.

"The case does not end here. Mr. Giordano will remain our prime suspect," said Solicitor General Taco Stein. Giordano has been a suspect since Aug. 5, three days after reporting to police that Gardner was apparently pulled out to sea while they were snorkeling off the southern tip of the island. Her body has never been found despite extensive searches, leaving investigators with only a circumstantial case that a crime was even committed.



U.S. businessman Gary Giordano was released from jail in Aruba on Tuesday and free to leave the island, although prosecutors continue to try to put him back behind bars as a suspect in the disappearance of his traveling companion.



Robyn Gardner submits photos in an attempt to try become a model.

Aruban law allows for pre-trial detention while authorities investigate a crime, but it is subject to a judge's review and the threshold of evidence necessary to hold someone increases as time goes on. A judge ruled last week that prosecutors had not met the requirement and ordered release for Giordano, of Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Prosecutors have appealed but the hearing on their request is not scheduled until Wednesday.

"The investigation must have yielded enough evidence to draft a charge," Stein said. "And we are not in that position yet."

Kelly Reed, a cousin of Gardner's, said the family hopes attention to the

case will generate a lead that will help investigators resolve the case.

"Needless to say, our family is very disappointed that even after all this time, we are no closer to finding out what happened to our Robyn," Reed said in a statement. "We trust that the FBI and the Aruban authorities will continue their fervent efforts to investigate her disappearance."

Giordano, the divorced owner of an employment services company, first drew suspicion with what investigators felt were inconsistencies in his account of Gardner's disappearance. Later, they learned he had taken out a \$1.5 million accidental death policy on her, which Stein said was

viewed as a possible motive.

Gardner's friends and family also had serious doubts about her disappearance, saying it was unlikely the 35-year-old woman from Frederick, Maryland, would have gone snorkeling in the first place.

Giordano's lawyers have said there is no evidence he committed any crime. His American lawyer, Jose Baez, said in a statement that the defense team was grateful for the judge's ruling and that Giordano was "excited to return home to his family in the United States."

Chris Lejuez, Giordano's Aruban defense lawyer, said they were still trying to work out when he would be released Tuesday and it might not be possible for him to leave Aruba until Wednesday.

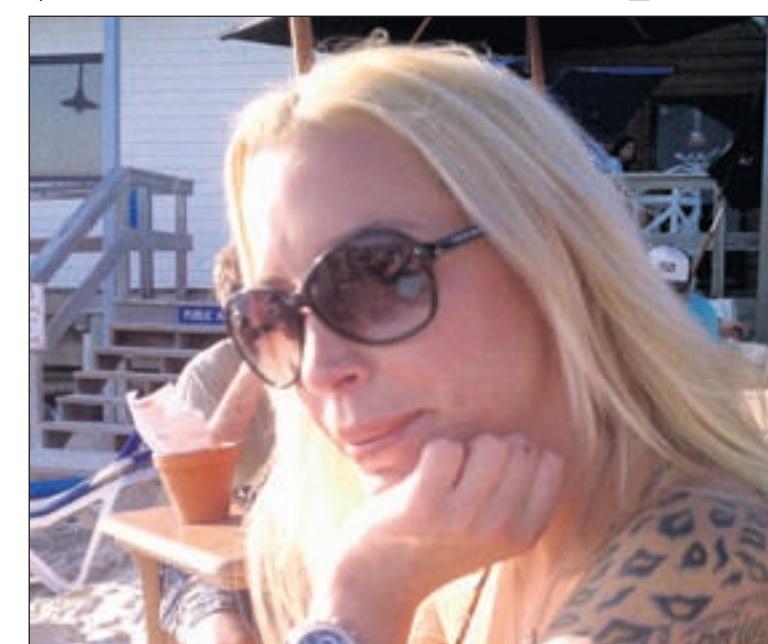
Once back in the U.S., he would be free to file a claim to redeem the American Express travel insurance policy he took out on Gardner. An American Express spokeswoman, Gail Was-

serman, said she could not confirm that Giordano has such a policy but said anyone making such a claim would have to produce documentation such as a death certificate and any police reports.

"Then we would make a determination if the claim is payable." No claim would be paid if it turned out there was fraud or "anything untoward" that would void the policy, she said. Stein said authorities have been conducting active searches for Gardner's body and last week sent divers and underwater robots to search in the area where Giordano reported her missing. They are also awaiting additional forensic evidence, including an FBI analysis of Giordano's Blackberry.

Investigators do not believe Giordano's account of Gardner being pulled out to sea, based on weather conditions and a re-enactment.

"We know he has been lying about what happened ... We know his story is not true," Stein said. □



Robyn Gardner, 35, of Frederick, Maryland. Gary V. Giordano is to be released by Tuesday evening on the order of a judge, who ruled authorities failed to justify continuing to hold him nearly four months since his companion, Robyn Gardner, vanished during their five-day excursion to the Dutch Caribbean island.

(AP Photo/Natalee Holloway Resource Center)

NAGICO acquires British American Insurance Company N.V. (Curacao) and subsidiary in Aruba

ORANJESTAD - On November 22, 2011, NAGICO Holdings Ltd. completed the acquisition of the shares of British American Insurance Company N.V., Curacao, including its subsidiary British American Insurance Company (Aruba) N.V. and branch operations on Bonaire and St. Maarten. British American currently has over 18,000 individual policy holders in the Dutch Caribbean. CEO of the NAGICO Group, Mr. Imran McSood-Amjad, confirmed that the acquisition is in line with NAGICO's continued strategic expansion throughout the Caribbean. "Our insurance portfolio will be bolstered with a sizeable Life Insurance division, with the combined expertise of the staff and management of both companies. I am delighted that most of the policy holders of British American kept their policies in force while the

parent company of British American experienced difficulties and we are now happy to welcome them under the NAGICO umbrella. Most of the staff and agents also remained loyal and I look forward to counting them among the NAGICO family". British American will be headed by Managing Director Drs. J. Oosterwaal, who brings a long track record as a Life Insurance expert, having served in senior capacities in Holland, Asia and the Americas. Mr. McSood-Amjad continued: "In the short-term, we will work towards integrating the NAGICO and British American operations. Over time, clients will be able to benefit from a wider range of insurance solutions as the product portfolio will be expanded. The product range will include Life, Pension, Health as well as Property and Casualty insurance". NAGICO is a dynamic group



of companies with insurance operations on 16 territories across the Dutch, English and French Caribbean and plans are to expand to at least 19 territories by the end of 2012. The NAGICO

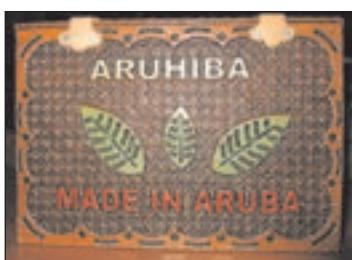
Group now writes premiums of over USD 100 million and has total assets of over USD 125 million and the general insurance group operations carry the prestigious AM Best B++ rating. British

American Insurance Company N.V. policy holders will shortly be informed directly on the benefits the acquisition will have for them and the operational transformation they may expect. □

Aruhiba, The 1 and Only Homemad Aruban Cigar



ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is



specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open from Monday to Saturday from 9am till

8:30pm. And open on Sunday from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores.

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Honoring at Aruba Beach Club



Recently a group of loyal visitors of Aruba were honored as Goodwill Ambassadors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for between 10 and 20 years consecutive.

All of the honorees are members of Aruba Beach Club and have been enjoying the Island every year. The honorees were Mr. David and Mrs. Lyndia Trachtman and Mr. Dale and Mrs. Toni Shaffer. The certificate was presented by Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority.

The main reason they return to Aruba is because they consider Aruba to be the Happy Island, the great weather, white sand beaches and the local food. □



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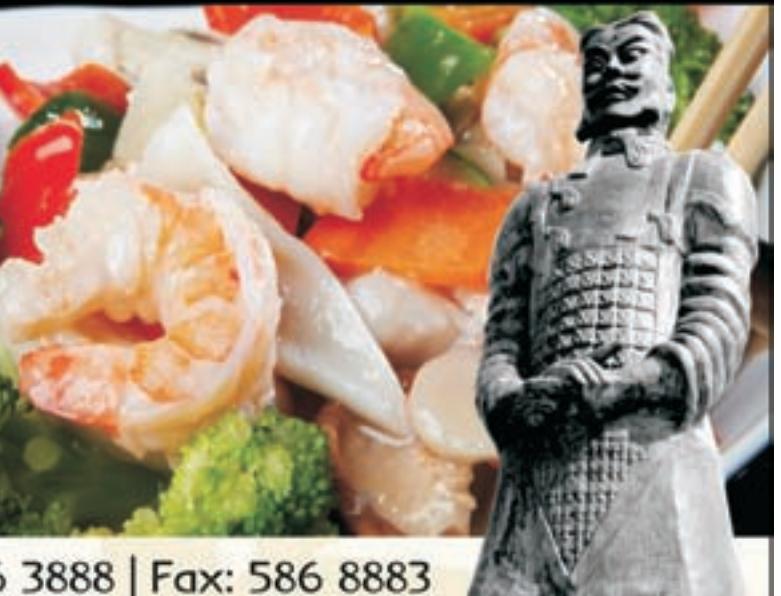
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Superb wines from Romar

Exciting food and wine pairing at stunning Mirpas

The first two-story house of Aruba, the former dwelling of Aruba's famous historian Johan Hartog, was the historic place of action for an exciting food and wine pairing last Thursday evening. Located across from the Renaissance Marketplace cinemas, recently opened Mirpas restaurant hosted a full house, 32 guests, who came to experience a wonderful menu and superb wines from Romar Trading. Clive Faustin and Mirpas owners Miriam Navarrete and Pascal Bony were on hand to explain the ins and outs of the wines and the courses to their captive audience.



The restaurant itself is the personification of Caribbean chic with a European feel to it. The terrace is spacious with a nice breeze, while the downstairs area is amazing, with a gleaming, white, open kitchen and a large dining table in the room next to it. There is

also a vinomatic (wine by the glass) filled with treasures. Upstairs the dining room is awesome: very modern and colorful, with fantastic lamps hanging over the tables and a softly shining grey wooden floor. Pascal's passion for wines ("I grew up with wines in France") and Miriam's eye for detail have come together in this restaurant. The idea behind Mirpas is that the couple does not wish to be just one more restaurant on Aruba – they wanted to stand out. Well, that's exactly what they do! Guests were treated to an amuse bouche of shrimps with lumpfish roe and a glass of Laurent Perrier Champagne on the terrace. The tiny bubbles in this



outstanding champagne revived them greatly after their hard day's work. After having been seated it was time for the appetizer: a wonderful ceviche passion fruit, which combined the acidic taste of the ceviche with the sweetness of the fruit. Scoring sky high was the wine that was paired with this intricate course: a complex Trivento Amado Sur Torrontes from Argentina. It was a fresh, intriguing and pleasing combination, which gained much praise from the guests. On with the Sole Meunière, to which a Nobilo Sauvignon Blanc from New Zealand was paired. The mineral and earthy overtones of this wine mingled with the subtle taste of the fish; the lovely mushrooms and new potatoes enhanced the flirt between earth and ocean. By the time the flagship of Mirpas, the mini Tournedos Rossini with foie gras and duck liver, and the quite robust Rust en Vrede Merlot from South Africa were served, dinner companions at one of the lively tables started to come up with most surprising comments about the wines served: they started out with words like brash, joyful, bold yet virginal, but after some more glasses of wine these progressed to adjectives such as passionate, sensual and seductive, culminating in nouns like crescendo and fireworks. One can imagine why wine is sometimes referred to as an aphrodisiac! Dinner continued with a Bruschetta of Roquefort and caramelized pear to with a splendid, dark red, twinkling Nobilo Pinot Noir from New Zealand was poured. Dessert was a fruits of the forest soufflé with Laurent Perrier Champagne as its crowning glory. Wow! Should you wish to enjoy an exciting lunch or dinner such as the above-mentioned event, please call 582-3063/592-0004 for reservations. Chef Juan from Venezuela, Pascal from France and Miriam are happy to welcome you at Mirpas, where the opening hours are noon to 2.30 pm and 5.30 – late. And just a suggestion: Mirpas would also be an excellent choice for Christmas dinners, parties and weddings. □



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Wild strike down Lightning, go top in West

Minnesota Wild's Marco Scandella, center, joins Jared Spurgeon and others in congratulating Mikko Kivu, right, after his empty net goal against the Tampa Bay Lightning in the third period of an NHL hockey game Monday, Nov. 28, 2011 in St. Paul, Minn. The Wild won 3-1.

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



In this photo taken Nov. 24, 2011, Detroit Lions head coach Jim Schwartz talks with defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh (90) as he leaves the field being disqualified in the third quarter of an NFL football game against the Green Bay Packers at Ford Field in Detroit.

Associated Press

Lions DT Suh appealing NFL's 2-game suspension

By LARRY LAGE

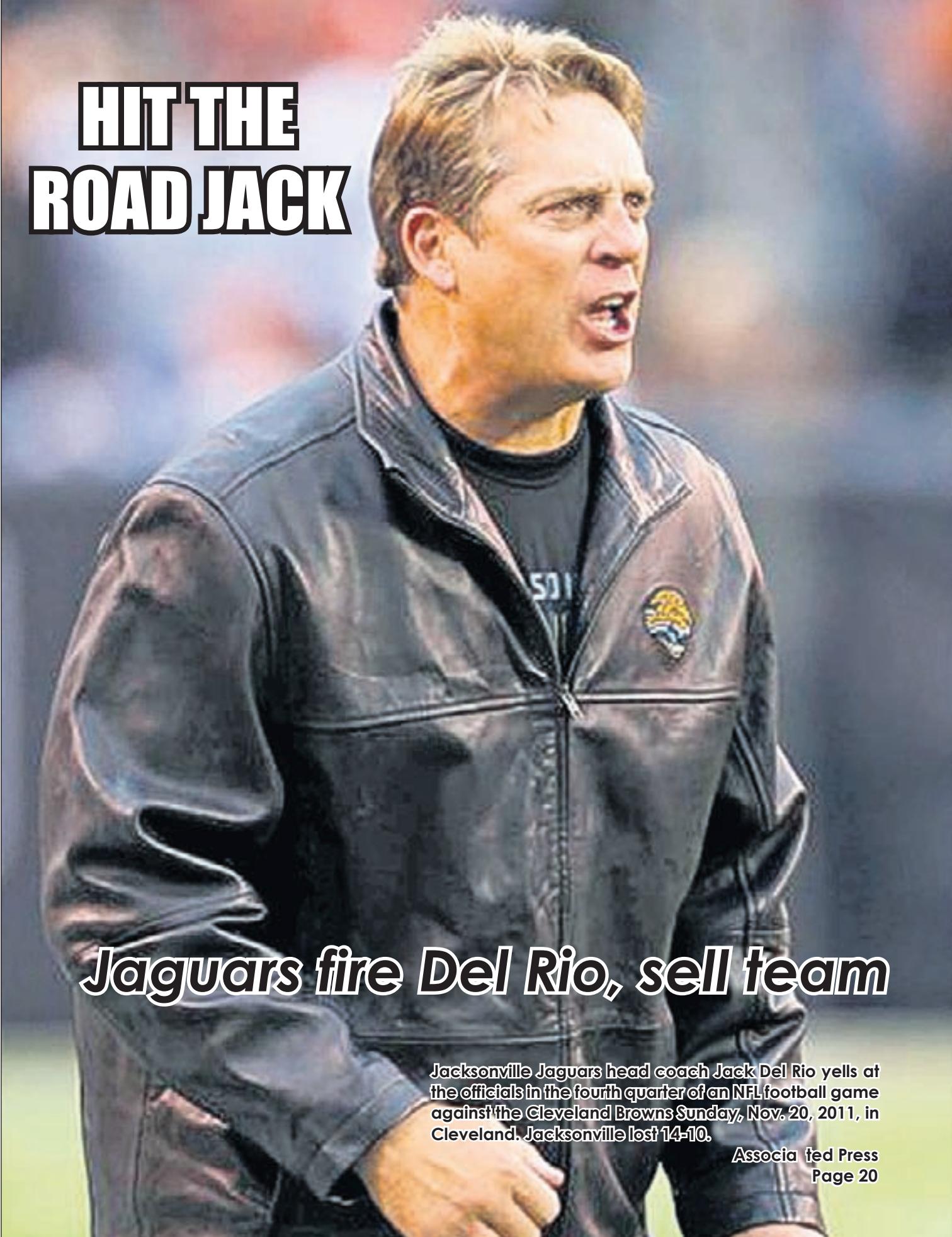
ALLEN PARK, Mich. (AP)

— Ndamukong Suh is going back to the NFL, this time hoping for some leniency. The league suspended Detroit's All-Pro defensive tackle without pay for two games on Tuesday, punishing the second-year player for roughing up a Green Bay Packers offensive lineman after the whistle last week. Suh promptly appealed his suspension, hoping his stomp doesn't keep him away from his playoff-hopeful teammates when they need him most.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said Suh's hearing will be with Art Shell, an appointed appeal officer who is paid by the league and NFLPA.

Continued on Page 20

HIT THE ROAD JACK



Jaguars fire Del Rio, sell team

Jacksonville Jaguars head coach Jack Del Rio yells at the officials in the fourth quarter of an NFL football game against the Cleveland Browns Sunday, Nov. 20, 2011, in Cleveland. Jacksonville lost 14-10.

Associated Press
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Tiger Woods absence makes youth in golf shine

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

THOUSAND OAKS, California (AP) — The pool of young talent in golf has never looked deeper.

Rory McIlroy won the U.S. Open at age 22, the second-youngest player to win a major since the Masters began in 1934. Jason Day, the 23-year-old Australian, was a runner-up in two majors this year.

Rickie Fowler, 22, won his first pro event in South Korea and is responsible for all those bright orange Puma hats in just about any gallery.

Matteo Manassero won twice on the European Tour before he was 18. Ryo Ishikawa had 10 wins in Japan before he was 19.

The list gets even longer with budding stars in their 20s — Martin Kaymer, Charl Schwartzel, Dustin Johnson, Keegan Bradley, Webb Simpson and Anthony Kim. Attribute that depth to Tiger Woods.

It's not because he set the bar so high and made everyone try to get better. It's because he no longer wins



Tiger Woods of the U.S. team tees off on the 8th hole during the third round of the Presidents Cup golf tournament at Royal Melbourne Golf Course, in Melbourne, Australia, Saturday, Nov. 19, 2011.

Associated Press

so many tournaments. So maybe the pool only looks deeper because it no longer has such a big fish.

For the second straight year, nobody won more than three times on the PGA Tour. And both years,

that third win came in their last tournament — Luke Donald last month at Disney, Jim Furyk last year at the Tour Championship. The five previous years, Woods won at least six times in all but one year.

The exception was 2008, when he missed the second half of the year with knee surgery. He won four times in six starts.

It's one thing to talk about this great parity in golf, particularly on the biggest tour. But two questions should be asked: Would that perception of parity exist if Woods had not gone away the last two years? Is it possible that just as many great young players were around over the last decade, only to be overlooked by the overwhelming presence of the game's biggest star?

Sergio Garcia nearly won the PGA Championship at 19 except that he went up against Woods that day in Medinah. Adam Scott was 23 when he won The Players Championship. Justin Leonard was 25 when he won the British Open. Phil

Mickelson won as an amateur.

"The talk like there's parity on tour is slightly flawed, because there's always been parity,"

Geoff Ogilvy said in a recent interview. "It's just that there was one guy who made no one notice. The last 15 years you've had Phil Mickelson, Ernie Els, David Duval, Adam Scott, Sergio Garcia. You had arguably more proven players — lots of them — over the last 15 years. Now it's the same.

"You have new names, but we notice them now. The media notices them. Fans notice them."

They used to be looked upon as possible challengers to Woods. Now they are seen as potential replacements.

Woods has gone two years since his last win, which for so many years seemed unimaginable until his personal life unraveled, until he chose to go through yet another swing change, then effectively went four months without being able to practice due to injury. Through it all, his confidence eroded with each setback. Thirteen players have won the last 13 majors, dating to Padraig Harrington at the 2008 PGA Championship. There was

a time when Woods won seven out of 11 majors early in his career, and six out of 14 majors right before reconstructive knee surgery.

If he had kept winning at the rate he did for 14 years, would anyone have noticed this crop of young players?

"Rory McIlroy would still be up there," Hunter Mahan said Tuesday. "But Tiger played a practice round and it made news. He's chasing records whenever he plays. How are you not going to write about that? No offense to the young guys."

Nick Watney also suggested that McIlroy, based on his sheer talent and eight-shot win at the U.S. Open, would get his fair share of attention even if Woods had kept winning a major a year, along with a half-dozen other titles.

"But he would be like Sergio was, like Adam Scott was, like whoever the media tabbed — Charles Howell, at one point," Watney said.

The question is whether Woods can get back.

The Chevron World Challenge, for an 18-man field in which everyone but the host — Woods — is among the top 50, figures to be a good benchmark. Woods has gone 26 official events without winning. He is coming off two strong weeks in Australia during which he hit the ball where he was aiming for nine rounds in windy conditions.

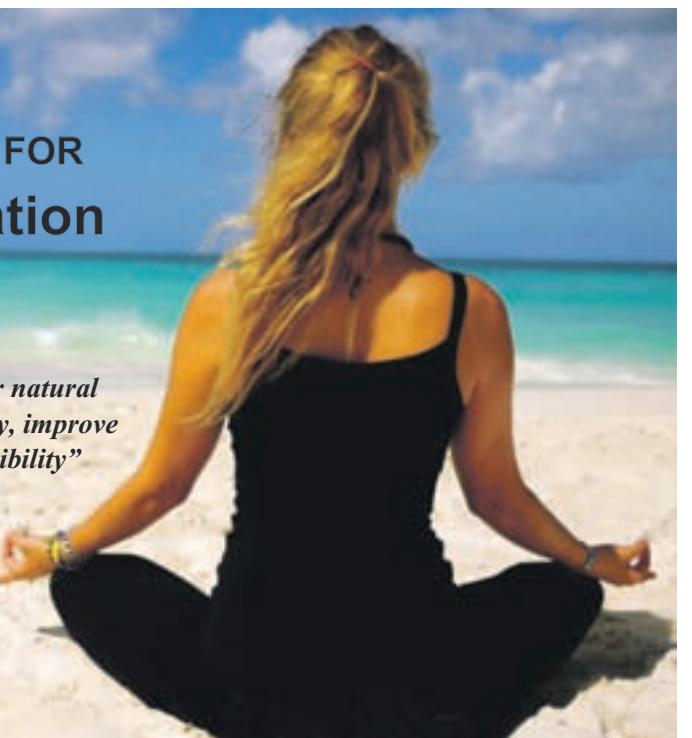
To win at Sherwood — or even to be in contention — would send expectations for 2012 higher than they have been in two years. But the road back doesn't start until he's posing with a trophy.

What happens then?

Only three players at Sherwood are older than Woods (Steve Stricker, Jim Furyk, K.J. Choi), so the challengers he faces around the world are all younger than they used to be. And while none of these guys has won more than three times in a year, they feel a lot better about themselves because no one else has won that much more. □

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NHL Roundup

Backstrom helps Wild down Lightning, 3-1

ST. PAUL, Minnesota (AP) —

Minnesota goaltender Niklas Backstrom rebounded from a rough outing and made 32 saves to help the Wild beat Tampa Bay Lightning 3-1 in the NHL on Monday and widen its Northwest Division lead.

Steven Stamkos scored again for the Lightning, but Cal Clutterbuck's short-handed goal and Pierre-Marc Bouchard's go-ahead score in the second period proved enough for the Wild. Mikko Koivu had an empty-net goal to pad the lead in a quick, clean game that featured only four penalties.

Stamkos has nine goals in 11 games and four goals in his past four.

Backstrom was part of the team that let in five goals against Calgary the previous game, but improved to 5-1-1 in his career against the Lightning.

KINGS 2, SHARKS 0

In Los Angeles, Jonathan Quick earned his NHL-leading fourth shutout of the season in his 200th regular-season game, helping Los Angeles down San Jose. Quick made 33 saves, coming up big numerous times during two San Jose power plays in the final 4½ minutes of the second period en route to his 18th career shutout.

Ethan Moreau ended a 58-game goal drought with his first goal since October 2009, and Mike Richards scored his ninth goal in 10 games for the Kings.

The Sharks were shut out for the third time this season.

PREDATORS 2, OILERS 1

In Edmonton, Nick Spaling scored the go-ahead goal to end Nashville's four-game skid with victory over Edmonton.

Spaling netted the winning goal with 7:39 remaining



Tampa Bay Lightning's Ryan Malone (12) jumps out of the way for a shot as Minnesota Wild goalie Niklas Backstrom of Finland, left, and Jared Spurgeon defend in the first period of an NHL hockey game Monday, Nov. 28, 2011 in St. Paul, Minn.

Associated Press

after Jordin Tootoo sent a backhanded pass in front to him for his third of the season.

Shea Weber also scored for the Predators.

Jordan Eberle had the lone goal for the Oilers.

STARS 3, AVALANCHE 1

In Denver, Andrew Raycroft stopped 35 shots for his first win in nearly a year, as Dal-

las beat Colorado.

Raycroft made his first start since taking over for Kari Lehtonen, who was placed on the injured list after suffering a knee injury on Sunday.

Michael Ryder scored twice and Eric Nystrom added his eighth of the season for the Stars.

Kevin Porter scored his first

this season for the Avalanche, who have won only four of 13 at home. Colorado entered with the NHL's second-best power play, but went 0 for 3.

In other NHL games it was Minnesota 3, Tampa Bay 1; Dallas 3, Colorado 1; Nashville 2, Edmonton 1; and Los Angeles 2, San Jose 0. □



Jaguars fire Del Rio after 3-8 start in 9th year

By MARK LONG

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)

— The Jacksonville Jaguars fired coach Jack Del Rio on Tuesday after a 3-8 start, parting ways with the franchise's second coach during his ninth season.

Del Rio's job security had been tenuous since owner Wayne Weaver said the coach needed to make the playoffs to secure a 10th season in Jacksonville. The Jaguars were essentially eliminated with Sunday's 20-13 loss to AFC South-leading Houston.

The timing of the move made sense since the Jaguars are struggling to sell tickets and host a Monday night game against San Diego. Defensive coordinator Mel Tucker was named the interim coach. The team scheduled a noon news conference to discuss the move.

Del Rio leaves with a 69-73 record, including 1-2 in two playoffs appearances. The Jaguars didn't win the AFC South in any of his nine seasons.

Weaver considered firing Del Rio after last season, but kept him partly because of the uncertainty surrounding the NFL lockout. Weaver refused to give contract extensions to any of Del Rio's assistants, putting everyone on alert that this was a win-or-else season.

Del Rio refused to let offensive coordinator Dirk Koetter and linebackers coach Mark Duffner interview for lateral positions. He couldn't stop quarterbacks coach Mike Shula, whose contract ended, and receivers coach Todd Monken, who returned to a college job at Oklahoma State, from bolting.

Given the situation, the pool of coaches wanting to come to Jacksonville was small, so Del Rio had few options while rebuilding his staff. Del Rio hinted this season that his hands were tied in terms of what he could to assemble the best staff.

Fans have been clamoring for his departure for years, with many calling for him to



Jacksonville Jaguars head coach Jack Del Rio, center, coaches from the sidelines during the first half of an NFL football game against the Houston Texans, Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011, in Jacksonville, Fla.

Associated Press

be fired following a 5-11 finish in 2008. Instead, Weaver parted ways with personnel

chief James "Shack" Harris and selected Gene Smith the general manager.

Suh

Continued from Page 17

As of late Tuesday afternoon, the hearing hadn't been scheduled, but the league has said it will expedite the procedure to give Suh and Lions an answer before Sunday's game at New Orleans.

If Suh doesn't win the appeal, he won't play against the Saints or in the Dec. 11 home game against Minnesota. He would return Dec. 12 ahead of a road game against Oakland. Suh is barred from practice and the team's facility while suspended. He did not return messages left with his agent.

"As a player, you have to appeal it," said Detroit defensive end Kyle Vanden Bosch, the team's union rep. "I'm sure the NFLPA will be on his side to make sure that he gets a fair hearing." If the NFL turns rejects the appeal, Suh will be watching the Lions (7-4) scramble to keep up in the NFC wild-card race after what the league said was his fifth violation of on-field rules in his first two years in the NFL. And everyone saw the latest one.

Suh lifted up his right knee and forcibly stepped on Evan Dietrich-Smith's right arm during the third quarter of the Lions' 27-15 loss last Thursday in a nationally televised Thanksgiving Day



In this Nov. 20, 2011 file photo, Detroit Lions defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh (90) sits on the bench during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game against the Carolina Panthers, in Detroit. Suh is suspended for two games by the NFL for stomping on the arm of Green Bay's Evan Dietrich-Smith during a Thanksgiving game.

Associated Press

game. Before the stomp seen from coast to coast, Suh shoved Dietrich-Smith's helmet toward the turf while separating himself from the Packers player on the ground.

It might have hurt Suh's case when he sounded defiant during his postgame news conference, insisting he didn't intentionally step on his opponent. After the Lions criticized his conduct Friday, Suh issued an apology to his teammates, organization and fans — not to Dietrich-Smith — as some around the league said his latest outburst proved he was the NFL's dirtiest player. "I'll let him speak for himself when he gets that opportunity, but I've had a lot of conversations with him the last two days and I think he

Smith has rebuilt the roster over the last three years. But the Jaguars have shown no progress under Del Rio's leadership.

Del Rio's tenure will be remembered for putting an ax and a wooden stump in the locker room in 2003, settling up a situation in which punter Chris Hanson hacked into his leg, and for repeatedly failing to properly handle quarterback situations.

He announced he was benching Mark Brunell and giving rookie Byron Leftwich the job in 2003 before talking to the players. He insisted Leftwich was his starter in 2007, and then cut him days before the

season opener. He did the same thing to David Garrard this season, cutting him five days before the opener and naming Luke McCown the starter.

McCown was benched after two games.

The Jaguars have been inept most of the season with Blaine Gabbert under center. The 10th overall pick in April's NFL draft has been rattled under pressure, has been inaccurate on short throws and doesn't appear to be making much progress.

Del Rio said Monday he was sticking with the rookie. It turned out to be the coach's final decision in Jacksonville. □

questions about Suh after Tuesday's practice. Vanden Bosch, though, believes everyone in the locker room supports Suh, who he spoke with on Tuesday. "His biggest regret is the affect it had on the team," Vanden Bosch said. "It was an unfortunate situation. When you're on the field, a lot of things happen when you're playing with so much emotion in such a physical game. It's difficult to look at the grand scheme of things when you're in the heat of the moment.

"There's no question he'd like to have the moment back, but he's dealing with the repercussions of it and we are as well."

The Lions will have a roster exception during Suh's suspension, meaning they can sign someone to replace him or bolster some other spot on the team.

Dietrich-Smith wasn't available to reporters in Green Bay on Tuesday, but other Packers players heard of the suspension. Linebacker Desmond Bishop said Suh "probably deserved it."

"He did something wrong, suspended, he'll pay the fine or whatever and hopefully (he'll be) back and it'll change him a little bit from doing something like that," Bishop said.

Guard T.J. Lang said the team was moving forward and wasn't worried about Suh. □



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Drew Brees and Saints blow out Giants, 49-24

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees passed for 363 yards and four touchdowns and ran for another score as the Saints rolled to a 49-24 victory over New York on Monday, extending the Giants losing skid to three NFL games.

Tight end Jimmy Graham had five catches for 84 yards, including touchdowns of 5 and 29 yards. Brees' two other scoring strikes went to Lance Moore, who had five catches for 54 yards.

This was a game New York was desperate to win after losing its previous two to San Francisco and Philadelphia.

Instead,

the Giants (6-5) dropped a game behind first-place Dallas in the NFC East and face the likelihood of a four-game losing streak given they host unbeaten Green Bay next weekend. The Giants took a beating on the scoreboard and on the field.

Defensive end Osi Umenyiora went out with a sprained ankle and receiver Hakeem Nicks was rocked by a vicious collision with Saints rookie safety Isa Abdul-Quddus.

Nicks stayed in the game despite bruised ribs.

Giants quarterback Eli Manning passed for 406 yards, but most of that came after the Saints had a big lead. He also was intercepted by linebacker Will Herring in the end zone on the team's first series.

The Giants, who have been struggling to run the ball all season and were without leading rusher Ahmad Bradshaw, gained only 73 yards on the ground.



In this Nov. 28, 2011 photo, New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees dives into the end zone for a touchdown during the third quarter of an NFL football game against the New York Giants, in New Orleans.

The Saints (8-3), meanwhile, maintained a one-game lead over Atlanta in the NFC South.

They also padded their rushing stats with 205 yards on the ground, including touchdown runs of 12 yards by Pierre Thomas and 35 yards by rookie Mark Ingram.

The Saints never trailed, striking first early in the second quarter on Brees' 4-yard touchdown pass to Moore, who snagged a quick throw on the right side and dove to stretch the ball across the goal line before he was tackled.

The 10-play, 80-yard scoring drive included a 23-yard pass to Graham and a 23-yard run by Darren Sproles, and it was the first of three touchdown drives of more than 80 yards in the opening half.

The only scoring the Giants managed in the first half was Lawrence Tynes' 42-

yard field goal. Tynes also attempted a 61-yarder, which fell short, at the end

Associated Press.

of the half. Marques Colston had three catches for 78 yards, all on the Saints' 34-second, 88-yard touchdown drive late in the second quarter that gave New Orleans a 21-3 halftime lead. Colston's longest reception went for 50 yards when he caught a pass along the left sideline, slipped a tackle and raced up field. The Giants did not get into the end zone until Brandon Jacobs steamrolled safety Roman Harper on an 8-yard scoring run that made it 21-10 in the third quarter, but the Saints went right back down the field and scored on Brees' 8-yard scramble. After Giants running back Da'Rell Scott fumbled on his own 29, Brees connected with Graham, who rumbled down the left sideline and dove for the pylon for his second TD of the game, and his team-leading eighth receiving score of the season. □

Syracuse chancellor: Boeheim's our coach

ALBANY, New York (AP) — Syracuse University Chancellor Nancy Cantor is supporting men's basketball coach Jim Boeheim amid an investigation into child molestation accusations against his former longtime assistant coach.

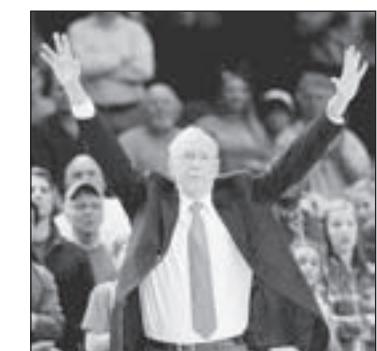
Cantor emerged from an economic development conference with state officials and said: "He is our coach."

Some commentators and sex abuse victims' ad-

vocates have said Boeheim should resign in the wake of allegations that Bernie Fine had molested three boys, including two Syracuse ballboys.

When the allegations first became public Nov. 17, Boeheim adamantly defended Fine and attacked the accusers, saying they were lying to make money in the wake of the Penn State University sexual abuse scandal.

On Sunday, he backed off,



saying he regretted his initial comments.

Fine, who has been fired, has denied the allegations. □

Just 1 in 4 with HIV have infection under control

MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Only about 1 in 4 Americans with the AIDS virus have the infection under control with medications, federal health officials said Tuesday.

Part of the reason is that about 20 percent of those infected with HIV don't know it. People can have an infection for years without developing symptoms. An infection was once a death sentence, but medications that have been available for 15 years can turn it into a manageable condition, allowing those infected to live longer and healthier lives.

However, in its first study of the issue, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found only a small fraction of people are being successfully treated.

"The big picture is we could do a lot better than we're doing today," said Dr. Thomas Frieden, the CDC's director.

Of the nearly 1.2 million people with HIV, only about 40 percent are getting HIV-fighting medications regularly. Worse, only 28 percent have gotten the virus to low levels in their blood.

That translates to roughly 850,000 Americans who don't have the virus controlled, Frieden said.

Success rates were lowest in blacks and women than in others, the CDC also found. There are various reasons why more people aren't

doing better, health of-



In this photo taken July 8, 2011, Sheila Brockington, project director of Family and Medical Counseling Service, Inc., left, and Deputy Director Angela Wood hold a swab kit outside the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office in southeast Washington. At one office of the Department of Motor Vehicles in the U.S. capital, motorists can get a driver's license, temporary road tax stickers and something wholly unrelated to the road: a free HIV test.

Associated Press

ficials said. Some were still early in their treatment, when the virus hadn't been beaten down to low levels yet.

Some dropped routine care because of money or other obstacles. Some didn't stick with it for other, more personal reasons. And, in a small percentage of cases, the medicine may not have worked.

The HIV virus can cause

AIDS, an illness that destroys the body's immune system and causes about 16,000 deaths annually in the United States. In the United States, the number of new infections each year has held steady in recent years, at about 50,000.

The CDC analysis was based on several sets of data, including surveys and surveillance reports from 2010 and a study that looked specifi-

cially at the medical care of people with HIV.

The good news is that once HIV-infected people get plugged into medical care, the drugs bring the virus under control nearly 80 percent of the time, health officials said.

But there are still not enough people being diagnosed, and there's a worrisome gap between those who are diagnosed and those

who get in — and stay in — treatment, some experts said.

On Tuesday, CDC also announced a \$2.4 million campaign to encourage HIV testing.

It's the government's first campaign aimed specifically at black gay and bisexual men, who account for nearly a quarter of all new HIV infections in the United States.

Reports say 'Cyber Monday' top online shopping day

MAE ANDERSON

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Online shoppers spent record amounts on the Monday after the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, making it the biggest online shopping day in U.S. history.

Online sales rose 22 percent to \$1.25 billion on "Cyber Monday," when retailers ramp up online promotions, according to research firm

comScore Inc. That makes it the biggest online shopping day ever, the research firm said. A year ago, "Cyber Monday" sales topped \$1 billion for the first time. IBM Benchmark, another company that tracks online sales, reported a 33 percent rise. The average order rose 2.6 percent to \$193.24 this year, according to IBM Benchmark. It didn't give total dollar sales

numbers for comparison. The company said about 80 percent of retailers offered online deals. The Cyber Monday numbers point to Americans' growing comfort with using their personal computers, tablets and smartphones to shop. Over the past few years, big chains like Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer, have offered more and better in-



Facebook settles with FTC over deception charges

By BARBARA ORTUTAY

NEW YORK (AP) — Facebook is settling with the Federal Trade Commission over charges it deceived consumers with its privacy settings to get people to share more personal information than they originally agreed to.

The FTC had charged that the social network told people they could keep the information they share private, then allowed it to be made public.

The charges go back to at least 2009, when Facebook changed its privacy settings so that information users may have deemed private, such as their list of friends, suddenly became viewable to everyone.

"They didn't warn users that this change was coming, or get their approval in advance," the FTC said.

The FTC said the settlement requires Facebook to get people's approval before changing how it shares their data. In a blog post, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said the company has made a "bunch of mistakes." But he adds that this has often overshadowed the good work Facebook has done. He says Facebook has addressed many of the FTC's concerns already. The settlement is similar to one Google agreed to earlier this year over its Buzz social networking service. Like Google, Facebook has agreed to obtain assessments of its privacy practices by independent, third-party auditors for the next 20 years.

Facebook isn't paying anything to settle the case, though future violations could lead to civil fines. □



This Oct. 11, 2010 file photo, shows the logo of the online network Facebook, recorded in Munich with a magnifying glass of a computer screen of a laptop.

Associated Press

Megan Roney shops online at Europa Coffeehouse in Denver Monday, Nov. 28, 2011 on what has become known as Cyber Monday.

Associated Press

centives, like hourly deals and free shipping, to capitalize on that trend. It's important for retailers to make a good showing during the holiday shopping season, a time when they can make up to 40 percent of their annual revenue.

"Retailers that adopted a smarter approach to commerce, one that allowed them to swiftly adjust to the shifting shopping habits of their customers, whether in-store, online or via their mobile device, were able to fully benefit from this day and the entire holiday

weekend, said John Squire, chief strategy officer, IBM Smarter Commerce.

About 6.6 percent of online shoppers used a mobile device to shop, up from 2.3 percent last year. Apple Inc.'s iPhone and iPad were the top mobile devices for retail traffic, with Android devices coming in third. Web traffic rose 28 percent on Monday, according to another firm, online content-delivery firm Akamai. The peak was at 9 p.m. Eastern when shoppers across the country were online. □



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Confidence index, Europe send stocks mostly higher

FRANCESCA LEVY

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A jump in U.S. consumer confidence sent stocks modestly higher Tuesday. Investors were also encouraged by new efforts from European leaders to find more aggressive cures for the region's debt crisis.

The Dow Jones industrial average ended with a gain of 32 points, following a 291-point surge Monday. Technology stocks were weak. Corning Inc., which makes glass for flat-screen TVs, slumped 10.8 percent, the most in the S&P 500, after saying a major South Korean customer would no longer do business with it.

Stocks started higher and gained momentum after 10 a.m., when the Conference Board, a private research group, reported that its Consumer Confidence Index jumped in November to its highest level since July. That news and strong retail sales over the Thanksgiving weekend reassured investors that the U.S. economy might be sputtering back to life, said Quincy Crosby, market strategist for Prudential Financial.

"For the market, the fact that Americans are spending is a positive force." Europe's proposals for wriggling out of a potential financial catastrophe have become more radical as borrowing costs for the region's large economies, including Spain and Italy, spike. President Barack Obama said in a meeting with top EU officials Monday that if Europe failed to solve its crisis, the U.S. economy would suffer.

Acting with new urgency, Europe's finance ministers were considering wide-ranging plans for protecting its shared currency, the euro, from collapsing. Many of those ideas would have been off-limits until recently, including having countries cede some control over their finances to a central European authority. In the latest sign of trouble, Italy was forced to pay an



John P. Surma, Chairman and CEO of US Steel, visits the post that trades his company's stock after ringing the closing bell of the New York Stock Exchange. A weekend of exuberant holiday shopping in the U.S. and radical proposals for stanching Europe's debt crisis sent stocks soaring Tuesday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index broke a seven-day losing streak.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

excruciatingly high interest rate on an auction of three-year debt Tuesday. The 7.89 percent rate was nearly three percentage points higher than last month, an enormous increase.

Bank stocks lagged the market as investors saw the latest jump in Italy's borrowing costs as a troubling sign for the global financial system. Banks could suffer huge losses in the event of a financial panic in Europe and a freeze-up in global lending markets. Morgan Stanley fell 3.6 percent; Bank of America 3.2 percent.

AMR Corp. plunged 84 percent after the parent company of American Airlines said it would file for bankruptcy protection because it could no longer shoulder rising fuel costs and its heavy debt load. Competitor United Continental Holdings Inc. jumped 6.3 percent, and Delta Air Lines Inc. rose 5 percent. AMR Corp. has continued to lose money while other U.S. airlines returned to profitability

in the last two years. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 32.62 points, or 0.3 percent, to close at 11,555.63 Tuesday.

The Dow jumped 291 the day before on expectations that European leaders were moving more aggressively to prevent the region's debt crisis from causing a catastrophic breakup of their currency union. European finance ministers gathered Tuesday to hash out the latest ideas for squelching the crisis. At their regular monthly meeting, the ministers also released the latest installment of emergency loans for Greece.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 2.64, or 0.2 percent, to 1,195.19. The S&P broke a seven-day losing streak Monday.

The Nasdaq composite, which consists mostly of technology stocks, fell 11.83, or 0.5 percent, to 2,515.51. Netflix lost 3.4 percent after Standard & Poor's lowered its rating on the company's debt, saying it expected losses.

Euro rises vs dollar

NEW YORK (AP) — The euro rose against the dollar for the second day in a row on hopes that European leaders will come up with a solution to deal with the region's growing debt crisis.

Finance ministers from the 17 countries that use the euro met in Brussels Tuesday to discuss ideas. The finance ministers are considering a number of plans for protecting the region's shared currency from collapse. One idea being floated is having countries relinquish some control over their finances to a central European authority.

Early in the meeting they approved the next \$10.7 billion installment of Greece's bailout loan. Without that money, the country would have run out of cash next month. European Union finance ministers are also expected to meet on Wednesday.

Pressure to come up with a solution has escalated in the past couple of weeks as borrowing costs have risen in Italy, Spain and even Europe's biggest economy Germany. Rising borrowing costs are a sign that investors think the country may not be able to pay its debts.

The euro rose to \$1.3331 late Tuesday from 1.3306 late Monday. The euro has fallen nearly 4 percent so far this month on fears that Europe's debt crisis would spread to other countries.

In other trading, the British pound rose to \$1.5607 from \$1.5496. The dollar fell to 77.93 Japanese yen from 77.99 Japanese yen, to 0.9203 Swiss franc from 0.9234 Swiss franc and to 1.0301 Canadian dollar from 1.0366 Canadian dollar. □

American Airlines files for bankruptcy



An analyst for Fitch Ratings says that American Airlines will have to focus on terminating its underfunded pension plans and getting wage concessions from workers now that it has filed for bankruptcy protection.

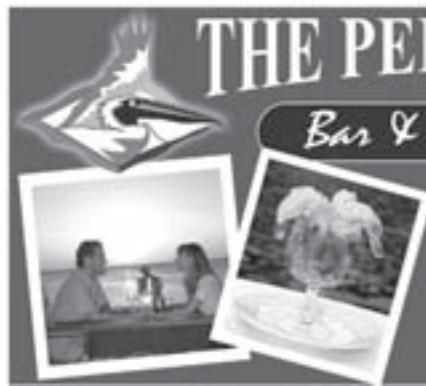
DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

DALLAS (AP) — An analyst for Fitch Ratings says that American Airlines will have to focus on terminating its underfunded pension plans and getting wage concessions from workers now that it has filed for bankruptcy protection.

Leaders of employee unions at American say they'll fight to look out for the workers' interests.

Fitch analyst Bill Warlick says that American may need to consider a merger with US Airways.

American's parent company, AMR Corp., filed for bankruptcy protection on Tuesday. The company says it was forced to file because of high labor and fuel costs and the weak economy. □



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Americans' assurance in the economy surges

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans are beginning to feel more confident about the U.S. economy just as the all-important Christmas shopping season begins. But their optimism may be short-lived. Consumer confidence surged in November to its highest level since July, a sign that Americans may be more willing to spend, the Conference Board reported Tuesday.

"Consumers appear to be entering the holiday season in better spirits," Lynn Franco, director of the Conference Board Consumer Research Center, said in a statement.

But confidence is still painfully below what is typically seen during a healthy economy. And Americans could start to feel more skittish if the debt crisis in Europe deepens and stokes fears of another recession in the U.S. "I think this will be a good holiday shopping season," said Mark Vitner, senior U.S. economist at Wells Fargo. "But the question is what will happen after that?" The Conference Board, a private research firm, said its Consumer Confidence Index climbed 15 points in November to 56.0. That is the highest it has been since the 59.2 reading over the summer. That is still well below the level of 90 that indicates an economy on solid footing.

The confidence numbers follow other encouraging signs: Every month for the past year except one, spending by Americans has grown 2 percent or more from a year earlier, according to government data. Americans spent \$52.4 billion over the four-day Thanksgiving Day weekend, the highest total ever



People shop for shoes at Nine West at Dadeland Mall in Miami. Americans are beginning to feel more confident about the U.S. economy just as the all-important Christmas shopping season begins.

(AP Photo/ Lynne Sladky)

recorded during the traditional start to the holiday shopping season, according to the National Retail

Federation. The average shopper spent a record \$398.62, up from \$365.34 a year ago, the NRF said.

And sales on Cyber Monday, the first online shopping day after the Thanksgiving weekend, rose 22 percent from a year ago to \$1.25 billion, the biggest online sales day in history, the research firm comScore Inc. reported.

Retailers count on the holiday shopping season for as much as 40 percent of their annual sales. According to the consumer index, Americans' anxiety regarding short-term business conditions, jobs and income prospects eased considerably after six months of declines. Americans expecting more jobs in the months ahead rose to 12.9 percent from 10.8 percent, for instance, while those expecting fewer jobs de-

clined to 24.1 percent from 27.6 percent the previous month. And the proportion of consumers anticipating an increase in their income climbed to 14.9 percent from 11.1 percent. Consumers have some reason to be more optimistic. Earlier this month, the Labor Department reported that unemployment nudged down to 9 percent in October from 9.1 percent in September. And the nation added 80,000 jobs in October for the 13th straight month of gains. Still, other economic prospects are not as good. Home prices are falling again in most major U.S. cities after posting small gains over the summer and spring, according to a report issued Tuesday. □

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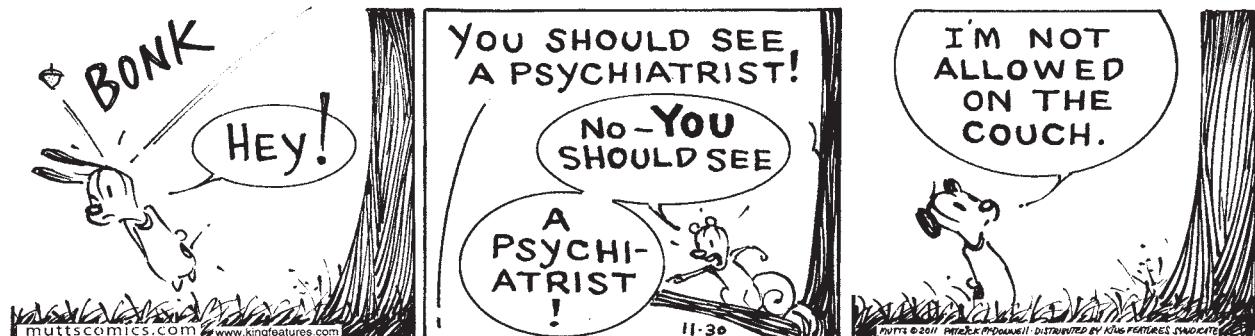
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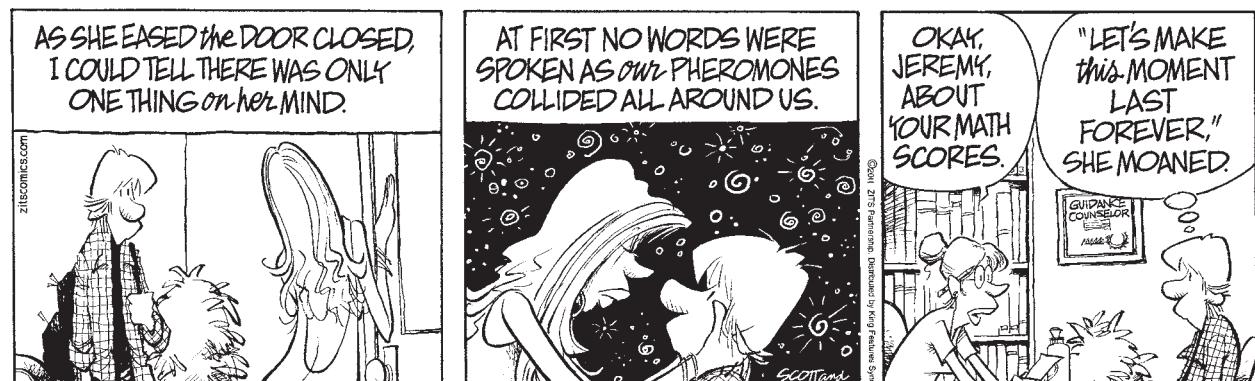
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9	8				7		
7		8		5		3	
4					5		
4		6		7		1	3
				2			
2	3	5	1	4	8	6	
2					9		
5					6		
		9	6	1			

Difficulty Level ★★★

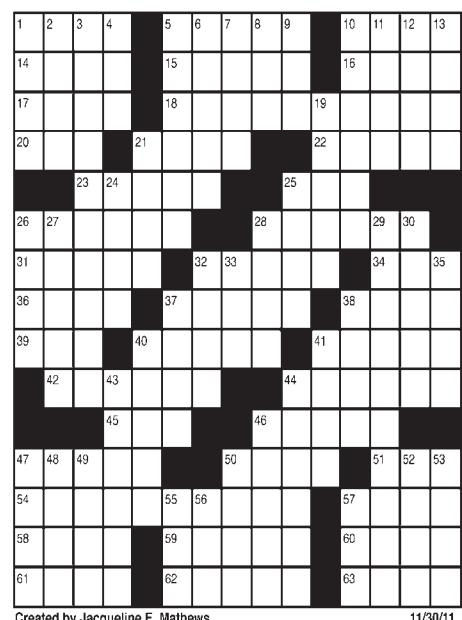
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11/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

9	1	3	7	8	6	2	5	4
4	8	2	5	3	9	6	7	1
7	5	6	4	2	1	9	8	3
5	4	8	1	9	2	3	6	7
1	6	7	8	4	3	5	2	9
2	3	9	6	5	7	4	1	8
6	2	1	3	7	4	8	9	5
3	7	5	9	6	8	1	4	2
8	9	4	2	1	5	7	3	6

Yesterday's puzzle answer



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 11/30/11

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

FOR		ACMES	INTO
A	NE	W	TREAT
R	U	S	MOAN
U	S	E	PORE
S	T	E	STATUETTE
T	A	N	ANTS
E	S	K	KINK
S	C	H	POI
C	L	E	SCHEMERS
L	O	W	SHARERS
O	C	H	CLOSE
C	A	I	WHISK
A	O	S	VIE
O	W	T	OAST
W	R	R	WORST
R	O	A	LAVA
O	P	I	PIE
P	B	K	BIKES
B	M	E	MODEL
M	E	N	EMANATED
E	A	A	DETERS
A	A	H	AAH
A	H	B	BELT
B	E	E	TERI
E	M	B	EMBITTERS
M	I	I	RAISE
I	R	R	RAID
R	E	A	HAIL
E	S	I	ISLE
S	O	E	EUROS
O	U	Y	YULE
U	D	N	NEED
D	I	I	DIDNT
I	D	L	LOW

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3 Morally shocking
4 Tit for
5 Quit, as a job
6 Suggest
7 away with;
abolishes
8 And so forth:
abbr.
9 "Hee, —,
go!"
10 Developed into
11 Slow period
12 Gold and silver
13 "Over my dead
!"
19 Not together
21 Grows old
24 Microwave, e.g.
25 Wrestler
Hogan
26 Two quarters
27 Banish
28 Canned fish
29 Filis with joy
30 Approaches
32 Close noisily
33 Goal
35 Melody
37 Murdered
38 Plant with
fronds
39 Top cards
40 out; oozes
41 Cut of pork
43 Separate grain
from straw
44 Not smooth
46 Social equals
47 Reach across
48 Ring of light
49 Top cards
50 Ladder rung
52 Facial disguise
53 Performs
55 Building wing
56 Actress Leoni
57 Two-cup item

Today In History

Today is Wednesday, November 30, the 334th day of 2011. There are 31 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1652 - Dutch defeat English fleet off Dungeness, England.

1710 - Turkey declares war on Russia.

1718 - Sweden's "warrior king" Charles XII dies at Fredrikshald in Norway after being hit by a bullet in the head. The day was later declared a holiday for Swedish nationalists.

1971 - U.S. President Richard Nixon authorizes Import-Export Bank to extend credit to Romania, ending three-year ban on U.S. government-backed credits to Communist-bloc nations.

1975 - Four Timorese parties proclaim independence of the territory and its integration with Indonesia.

1981 - The United States and the Soviet Union open negotiations in Geneva aimed at reducing nuclear weapons in Europe.

1992 - The European Community agrees to speed up expulsions of bogus asylum seekers, and turns down an appeal by Germany to share the influx of refugees.

1993 - In Belfast, Northern Ireland, gunmen murder a Catholic factory worker while politicians talk of peace; U.S. President Bill Clinton signs into law the Brady bill, which requires a five-day waiting period for handgun purchases and background checks of prospective buyers.

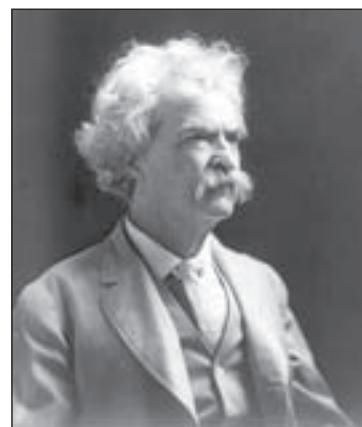
1996 - Rallying against Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, who annulled opposition victories in local elections, 150,000 people march through the Yugoslav capital of Belgrade.

1998 - The British hospital where General Augusto Pinochet is staying says he doesn't need medical care — a blow to the Chilean dictator's plan to plead he is too ill to stand trial for extradition to Spain.

1999 - The opening of a 135-nation trade gathering in Seattle is disrupted by at least 40,000 demonstrators, some of whom clash with police.

2006 - Sudan's president

rejects a proposal to send U.N. peacekeepers to Darfur to boost a beleaguered 7,000-member African Union force, crushing hopes for a quick solution to the violence spreading across



Today is Mark Twain's birthday

central Africa.

2007 - A new form of the deadly Ebola virus is detected in an outbreak in western Uganda that has so far killed 16 people, the World Health Organization says.

2008 - Space shuttle Endeavour returns to Earth after a nearly 16-day mission to re-

pair and upgrade the international space station.

2009 - President Barack Obama spells out a costly Afghanistan war expansion to a skeptical American public, coupling an infusion of as many as 35,000 more troops with a vow that there will be no endless U.S. commitment.

2010 — British police make 153 arrests during student demonstrations in London against proposed university tuition hikes.

Today's Birthdays:

Jonathan Swift, English satirist (1667-1745); Sir Winston Churchill, British statesman (1874-1965); Mark Twain, U.S. author (1835-1910); Ridley Scott, British film director (1937--); Mandy Patinkin, U.S. actor/singer (1952--); David Mamet, U.S. writer/director (1947--).

Thought For Today:

The real problem is what to do with the problem solvers after the problems are solved — Gay Talese, American author and journalist. □

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Noord	587-0009
Sta. Cruz	585-4710
Savaneta	584-7000
San Nicolas	584-5000

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Numbers	911
Emergency	100
Police	115
Fire Dept.	582-1108
Fire Dept. II	11141
Police Tipline	527-4000
Hospital	

Oranjestad

Ambulance	582-1234
Police	582-4000

San Nicolas

Ambulance	584-5050
Police station	584-5000
BGD San Nicolas	584-1606
Valero Security	584-1720

Services

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Setar	582-5151
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Taxi- Tas	587-5900
Profesional Taxi	588-0035
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KEEP ARUBA CLEAN

'Artist,' 'Take Shelter' lead in Spirit Awards

DAVID GERMAIN

AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The silent movie "The Artist" and the doomsday drama "Take Shelter" led the Spirit Awards honoring independent film on Tuesday with five nominations each, including best picture.

Also in the running for best picture were the cancer tale "50/50"; the action thriller "Drive"; and the family dramas "Beginners" and "The Descendants."

A black-and-white throwback to early Hollywood, "The Artist" also earned a lead-actor nomination for Jean Dujardin as a silent film star whose career crumbles as the sound era takes over in the late 1920s. The film grabbed directing and screenplay nominations for Michel Hazanavicius, along with a cinematography slot for Guillaume Schiffman.

"Take Shelter" star Michael Shannon earned a lead-actor nomination as a family man who comes unhinged amid visions of a coming apocalyptic storm. Co-star Jessica Chastain was nominated for supporting actress, while "Take Shelter" also received nominations for director Jeff Nichols and a prize for emerging producers for Sophia Lin.

Other lead-actor contenders were Ryan Gosling for "Drive," Demian Bichir for the immigrant drama "A Better Life" and Woody Harrelson for the police story "Rampart." The lead-actress field included Michelle Williams as Marilyn Monroe in "My Week with Marilyn." Also nominated were Lauren Ambrose for the single-mom story "Think of Me," Rachael Harris for the road-trip comedy "Natural Selection," Adepero



Oduye for the teen drama "Pariah" and Elizabeth Olsen as an escapee from a cult in "Martha Marcy May Marlene."

Presented by the cinema

group Film Independent, the Spirit Awards will be handed out the day before the Academy Awards, at an afternoon ceremony on Feb. 25. The show will air later that night on IFC.

The Spirit Awards nominations are one of the first key honors on the long road to the Oscars, which often are dominated by big Hollywood films but generally include many nominees from the independent film world. Last season's top winner at the Spirit Awards, "Black Swan," also was a hit with Academy voters, earning a best-picture nomination there and winning the best-actress Oscar for Natalie Portman.

Notably absent from the Spirit Awards lineup was Academy Award winner George Clooney, considered a strong prospect for a best-actor nomination at the Oscars for "The Descendants." "Like Crazy," the top winner at last January's Sundance Film Festival, was completely overlooked, receiving no nominations.

The stars of Woody Allen's romantic fantasy "Midnight in Paris" — among them Owen Wilson, Rachel McAdams and Oscar winners Marion Cotillard and Kathy Bates — missed out, too. But their relatively unknown co-star, Corey Stoll, picked up a supporting-actor nomination for his scene-stealing role as Ernest Hemingway. Clooney's young co-star



In this film image released by Fox Searchlight, John Hawkes, left, and Elizabeth Olsen are shown in a scene from "Martha Marcy May Marlene." Olsen was nominated for a Spirit Award, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011 for best actress for her role in the film. Winners will be announced Feb. 25, the day before the Academy Awards.

Associated Press

Shailene Woodley, who plays his daughter in "The Descendants," earned a supporting-actress slot. Nominees in the supporting categories included Christopher Plummer for "Beginners," Oscar winner Anjelica Huston for "50/50," Albert Brooks for "Drive" and John Hawkes for "Martha Marcy May Marlene," who won the supporting-actor prize at last season's Spirit Awards for "Winter's Bone." Along with Hazanavicius and Nichols, directing nominees were Mike Mills for "Beginners," Alexander Payne for "The Descendants" and Nicolas Winding Refn for "Drive." □

'Fahrenheit 451' finally out as an e-book

HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — At age 91, Ray Bradbury is making peace with the future he helped predict.

The science fiction/fantasy author and longtime enemy of the e-book has finally allowed his dystopian classic "Fahrenheit 451" to be published in digital format. Simon & Schuster released the electronic edition Tuesday at a list price of \$9.99. First published in paperback by Ballantine in 1953 and as a hardcover by Simon & Schuster in the 1960s, "Fahrenheit 451" has sold more than 10 million copies and has been translated into 33 languages. It imagined a world in which the appetite for new and faster media leads to a decline in reading, and books are banned and burned. Bradbury himself has been an emphatic defender of traditional paper texts, saying that e-books "smell like burned fuel" and calling the Internet nothing but "a big distraction."

"It's meaningless; it's not

real," he told The New York Times in 2009. "It's in the air somewhere."

A phone call to Bradbury was not immediately returned.

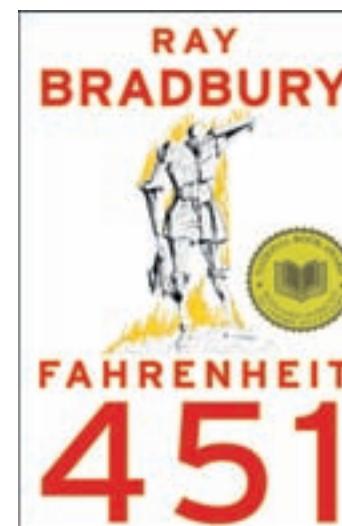
A pre-recorded voicemail message, a woman's voice, warned that the author doesn't usually check his messages.

Bradbury's agent, Michael Congdon, said Tuesday that rights for Bradbury's book were expiring and that the growing digital market, estimated at 20 percent or higher of overall sales, made a deal for e-books inevitable.

A wave of former e-holdouts have changed their minds recently, notably "Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling.

"We explained the situation to him (Bradbury) that a new contract wouldn't be possible without e-book rights," said Congdon, who added that six publishers had been interested. "He understood and gave us the right to go ahead."

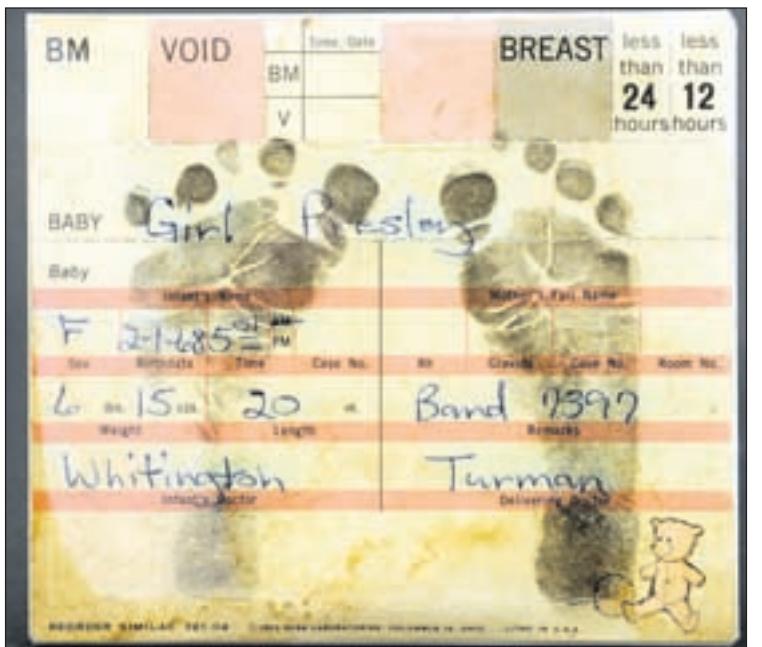
In a statement released Tuesday, Simon & Schuster



In this image released by Simon & Schuster, the cover of "Fahrenheit 451," by Ray Bradbury, is shown.
Associated Press

publisher Jonathan Karp said the new e-book was "a rare and wonderful opportunity to continue our relationship with this beloved and canonical author and to bring his works to new a generation of readers and in new formats."

Simon & Schuster also announced that a new paperback edition of "Fahrenheit 451" would go on sale in January. New paperbacks of two other Bradbury favorites, "The Martian Chronicles" and "Illustrated Man" will be available in March. □



A February 1968 photo provided by Elvis Presley Enterprises, Inc. shows the baby footprints taken at Baptist Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., of Lisa Marie Presley, when she was born to Elvis and Priscilla Presley. The footprint card will be included in a new exhibit titled "Elvis...Through His Daughter's Eyes" which opens at Graceland on Lisa Marie's birthday, Feb 1, 2012.

Associated Press

3 new exhibits opening at Elvis' Graceland

ADRIAN SAINZ

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)

— Elvis Presley Enterprises says three new exhibits will open next year at Graceland in Memphis to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the entertainer's death.

The first exhibit looks at the 1972 documentary "Elvis on Tour," which chronicles

a multi-city concert tour. The exhibit, which opens Jan. 5, will include jewelry and clothing worn by Elvis during the shows. "Elvis...Through His Daughter's Eyes," which opens Feb. 1, will highlight Elvis' relationship with his daughter, Lisa Marie Presley. It includes family photos and home movies that show her growing up at Graceland. □

Winehouse dress fetches over \$67,100 at auction

LONDON (AP) — The dress worn by Amy Winehouse on the cover of the late singer's Grammy-winning "Back to Black" album has sold for over 43,000 pounds (\$67,120) at auction.

Kerry Taylor Auctions says the polka-dot chiffon dress, designed in 2006, was purchased by Musea de la Moda — a fashion museum in Santiago, Chile — for 43,200 pounds.

It said the dress's designer, Disaya, agreed to donate proceeds from the sale to a foundation set up in Winehouse's name.

Winehouse's father, Mitch, attended the auction and called the donation a "wonderful start to the foundation," which was set up to help vulnerable youth following Winehouse's



death in July.

A British coroner ruled the singer, known for her beehive hairdos, drank herself to death. □

Kennedy Center taps pianist Jason Moran as jazz adviser



This undated handout photo provided by the Kennedy Center shows Jason Moran. The Kennedy Center is expected to name the 36-year-old pianist Moran as its artistic adviser for jazz Tuesday, succeeding 89-year-old acclaimed musician Billy Taylor.

Associated Press

BRETT ZONGKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The

Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts tapped 36-year-old pianist and composer Jason Moran on Tuesday to be its artistic adviser for jazz, a post held by acclaimed musician Billy Taylor until his death in December at age 89. The generational hand-off had not been planned but makes sense as jazz evolves, musical directors at the Washington, D.C., center said. Moran, who lives in New York City and teaches at the New England Conservatory in Boston, won a \$500,000 "genius grant" last year from the MacArthur Foundation and is known for mixing visuals and other media with some of his productions.

Moran told The Associated Press he thinks often about how to place jazz in a 2011 context.

"It's not like it was in 1959, and it's definitely not like it was in 1939, and it's not like it was in 1900," he said. "Things have changed. Jazz is at a different place right now. So where does it fit, and with whom does it echo?" As artistic adviser for the next three years, Moran will help select artists and develop one of the nation's largest jazz programs. The Kennedy Center presents more than 30 performances each year, including concerts in its own jazz club and performances broadcast on NPR, National Public Radio.

hiring a young, daring adviser, however, will not necessarily bring big changes

Broadway's 'Ghost' will have a familiar feel

NEW YORK (AP) — The Broadway-bound casting of the musical "Ghost" will be hauntingly familiar.

Producers said Tuesday that Richard Fleeshman and Caissie Levy will reprise their starring roles as Sam and Molly that they originated in London.

The musical is based on the

1990 movie in which Patrick Swayze played a ghost trying to communicate with his girlfriend through a fake psychic in hopes of saving her from his murderer.

Demi Moore played the girlfriend.

"Ghost" has new songs by Grammy Award winner Dave Stewart and Glen Bal-

to the program, said Kevin Struthers, the center's jazz director. He said Moran can "swing with the best of them" but also could take the genre in a different direction.

"I think we have selected someone who is firmly rooted in the traditions of the music," Struthers said. "Jazz is not to be put on a shelf as a museum piece. It is important that we pay homage to the past, and I think Jason does that through his music, but he puts it in a contemporary setting."

Taylor, a pianist and composer who played with luminaries such as Dizzy Gillespie and Miles Davis, became an ardent jazz advocate through radio, TV and his Jazzmobile arts venue that visited urban neighborhoods. He profiled musicians for CBS' "Sunday Morning" show and won an Emmy Award in 1983 for a piece on Quincy Jones. He had been in the Kennedy Center post since 1994. Moran said he considers Taylor a mentor because he always had advice and critiques to offer.

He began learning from Taylor at age 16 during a master class at his high school. The young pianist performed at the Kennedy Center for the first time in 1998 through a program to identify young talent.

"At a certain point, my generation has to stand up to continue to hand down the information that has been given to us," he said. "Billy has been a person who bridged the gap between jazz and the American public ... So that's the thing I want to continue to model in whatever I do." □

lard. Stewart is half of the pop duo the Eurythmics. Ballard helped put together Alanis Morissette's "Jagged Little Pill."

Previews will begin March 15 at Broadway's Lunt-Fontanne Theatre.

Opening night is set for April 23. Tickets go on sale Dec. 5. □

Things to tax



PAUL KRUGMAN
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The supercommittee was a superdud — and we should be glad. Nonetheless, at some point we'll have to rein in budget deficits. And when we do, here's a thought: How about making increased revenue an important part of the deal? And I don't just mean a return to Clinton-era tax rates. Why should 1990s taxes be considered the outer limit of revenue collection? Think about it: The long-run budget outlook has darkened, which means that some hard choices must be made. Why should those choices only involve spending cuts? Why not also push some taxes above their levels in the 1990s? Let me suggest two areas in which it would make a lot of sense to raise taxes in earnest, not just return them to pre-Bush levels: taxes on very high incomes and taxes on financial transactions.

About those high incomes: In my last column I suggested that the very rich, who have had huge income gains over the past 30 years, should pay more in taxes. I got many responses from readers, with a common theme being that this was silly, that even confiscatory taxes on the wealthy couldn't possibly raise enough money to matter. Folks, you're living in the past. Once upon a time America was a middle-class nation, in which the super-elite's income was no big deal. But that was another country.

The IRS reports that in 2007, that is, before the economic crisis, the top 0.1 percent of taxpayers — roughly speaking, people with annual incomes over \$2 million — had a combined income of more than \$1 trillion. That's a lot of money, and it wouldn't be hard to devise taxes that would raise a significant amount of revenue from those super-high-income individuals.

For example, a recent report by the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center points out that before 1980 very-high-income individuals fell into tax brackets well above the 35 percent top rate that applies today. According to the center's analysis, restoring those high-income brackets would have raised \$78 billion in 2007, or more than half a percent of GDP. I've extrapolated that number using Congressional Budget Office projections, and what I get for the next decade is that high-income taxation

could shave more than \$1 trillion off the deficit.

It's instructive to compare that estimate with the savings from the kinds of proposals that are actually circulating in Washington these days. Consider, for example, proposals to raise the age of Medicare eligibility to 67, dealing a major blow to millions of Americans. How much money would that save?

Well, none from the point of view of the nation as a whole, since we would be pushing seniors out of Medicare and into private insurance, which has substantially higher costs. True, it would reduce federal spending — but not by much. The budget office estimates that outlays would fall by only \$125 billion over the next decade, as the age increase phased in. And even when fully phased in, this partial dismantling of Medicare would reduce the deficit only about a third as much as could be achieved with higher taxes on the very rich.

So raising taxes on the very rich could make a serious contribution to deficit reduction. Don't believe anyone who claims otherwise.

And then there's the idea of taxing financial transactions, which have exploded in recent decades. The economic value of all this trading is dubious at best. In fact, there's considerable evidence suggesting that too much trading is going on. Still, nobody is proposing a punitive tax. On the table, instead, are proposals like the one recently made by Sen. Tom Harkin and Rep. Peter DeFazio for a tiny fee on financial transactions.

And here's the thing: Because there are so many transactions, such a fee could yield several hundred billion dollars in revenue over the next decade. Again, this compares favorably with the savings from many of the harsh spending cuts being proposed in the name of fiscal responsibility.

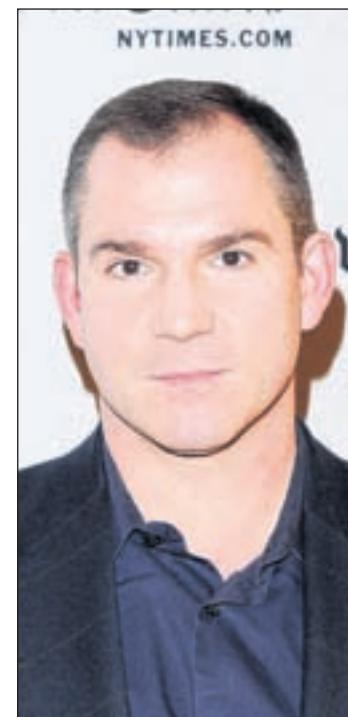
But wouldn't such a tax hurt economic growth? As I said, the evidence suggests not — if anything, it suggests that to the extent that taxing financial transactions reduces the volume of wheeling and dealing, that would be a good thing.

And it's instructive, too, to note that some countries already have financial transactions taxes — and that among those who do are Hong Kong and Singapore. If some conservative starts claiming that such taxes are an unwarranted government intrusion, you might want to ask him why such taxes are imposed by the two countries that score highest on the Heritage Foundation's Index of Economic Freedom.

Now, the tax ideas I've just mentioned wouldn't be enough, by themselves, to fix our deficit. But the same is true of proposals for spending cuts. The point I'm making here isn't that taxes are all we need; it is that they could and should be a significant part of the solution. □



Silvio's deluded postscript



FRANK BRUNI
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ROME — The direness of Italy's financial situation forced him from office, and his country has been teetering on the precipice of default, with the euro on the line and the whole world holding its breath.

But Silvio Berlusconi still doesn't get it. On Sunday, the deposed prime minister re-emerged in public and reopened that font of self-aggrandizing fantasy otherwise known as his mouth, and what do you suppose came out of it?

Not regret, not remorse and certainly not anything constructive.

Instead, Berlusconi ranted about the Communist menace and how he had long stood — and would forever stand — as a bulwark against it.

The Communist menace! That's the bogeyman he has used his entire political career, with shockingly dependable success, and though it has nothing to do with Italy's current predicament, he won't let go of it.

In Berlusconi's version, the story of Italy over the 17 years that he toggled in and out of power isn't one of a country frittering away its lavish blessings under the ostensible leadership of a solipsistic oligarch.

It's of a country spared the red menace thanks to a knight in tangerine armor, that hue being the odd color he achieves through some amalgam of sun and makeup.

Among the many European leaders felled by the Continent's debt crisis, Berlusconi will perhaps have the most sustained claim on the spotlight, because of his wealth, extensive media holdings, continuing criminal trials and sheer flamboyant Berlusconi-ness.

But for such a larger-than-life figure, he's an awfully small man, and I don't mean physically, though if he were to read this sentence, that's the interpretation he'd worry about.

Back in 2003, when I interviewed him over a long dinner, he complained that he had been disparaged on Italian television as a dwarf.

"I'm as tall as Aznar," he volunteered, referring to the Spanish prime minister at the time, Jose Maria Aznar.

"I'm the average Italian, right?" he added, seeking reassurance from an aide seated near him. It came right away.

"Certainly," the aide said.

Just over two weeks ago Berlusconi finally surrendered the reins of the Italian government, and he pretty much stayed mum until Sunday, when he spoke to political allies at a gathering in Verona.

His tone was defiant, and he predicted that after the conclusion of the technocratic government expected to guide Italy until early 2013, the center-right political party that he started, the People of Liberty, would rise anew.

(He himself has already pledged not to seek re-election.)

He vowed to continue the fight against a center-left coalition that didn't really want people to be free.

He mentioned a police state. He mentioned his trusty Communists.

He did not mention the country's sovereign debt, which is now about 120 percent of its gross domestic product; its growing inability to secure loans at endurable interest rates; or all the young Italians who can't

find meaningful work. These problems, to be fair, aren't principally of his making. But he did too little to forestall them or to modernize Italy's economy, even as he did plenty to serve his business, legal and libidinal needs.

And he cheapened Italian discourse, along with the country's image, contributing to a sort of silliness and civic amorality that hold Italy back.

An operator as crass and shady as Berlusconi was never, for example, going to be the leader to get all Italians to pay their full share of taxes.

He could now make amends for at least some of that if he lost his tired script, stopped fanning the flames of partisanship and exhorted Italians to shared purpose and sacrifice.

Such a high-minded message from him of all people would underscore the seriousness of Italy's situation, and might have real impact. It's probably ludicrous to wish for that.

But it's not unreasonable to hope that Italians take advantage of his ouster and start to prepare — really prepare — for the future.

Over the Berlusconi era they seemed to grow strangely resigned and even accustomed to him; he was reliable kindling for anger and an easy target for ridicule.

And they adopted the refrain that there was no release from his chokehold on Italian life because no one had a comparable megaphone and there was no plausible alternative to him. It's incumbent on them now to create one.

They no longer have any excuse not to. And they should treat those instances when he pops up in public — and pops off about this, that or whatever — as useful reminders of the kind of farce they can no longer afford and must leave far behind.

He popped up again Monday, in a Milan courtroom, where he was facing bribery charges that, because of trial delays, may expire before any verdict is reached.

"It was very hard to stay awake," he told reporters. He really needn't try. □

A quest for virtue, after a weighty feast

DAVID TANIS

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After so many days of feasting, it was time for something light, fat-free and, dare I say, cleansing.

Though I wanted the lightness of steamed fish, I knew that baking briefly in a covered pan would also get the results I wanted, and with less fuss. (As soon as I

water, adding a touch of garlic and ginger and swirling the greens with tongs. As soon as they were barely wilted, I transferred them to a serving dish.



The ingredients to make baked fish with a sesame oil and ginger rub to be served with wilted spinach and topped with black sesame seeds, scallions and pickled ginger, in New York. After so many days of feasting on the Thanksgiving leftovers, baked fish can be a light and cleansing meal.
(Evan Sung/The New York Times)

But something flavorful, too, it goes without saying. A good day for fish, I thought, planning a meal in my head. When I think of the healthiest-tasting food I know, Japanese cuisine often comes to mind. Bowls of noodles in dashi broth, or delicate simmered vegetables, or miso-dabbed fish, or vinegared rice dishes with clean, bright flavors. I knew I wasn't going to make any of those, but that was the feeling I wanted to emulate. I went to the fish market to have a look. There was a beautiful whole black bass almost begging to be steamed, but since one of my dinner guests that night was known to be bone-phobic, I looked at the boneless fillets instead. Cod, flounder and halibut were available, and all seemed appealing. Just for fun, I bought some of each.



buy a bigger wok, I'm going back to the market to get a sea bass.) First, I marinated the fillets in a small amount of sesame oil and grated ginger – just a teaspoon of each for four six-ounce pieces. I wanted to have pickled ginger, too, for serving, so I worked out a quick method. Thin slices of ginger with salt, sugar and rice vinegar went into a little bowl, along with a slice of red radish to give it a pink hue. Left for just an hour, the ginger was ready. While the fish was in the oven for its 10-minute cooking, I quickly prepared some spinach. I desperately wanted a pile of fresh greens and washed a pound for four people. The method was something I've come to think of as an oil-free stir-fry: I cooked a large handful of spinach at a time in a half-inch of boiling



With a sprinkling of roasted black sesame seeds and a few slices of pickled ginger, the fish was beautiful, and completely satisfying. With the spinach, a bowl of steamed rice and a pot of green tea, we felt rather virtuous, for the first time in days.

COD WITH SESAME AND GINGER

Time: About 20 minutes

4 cod fillets, about 6 ounces each (or substitute halibut, rock fish or other firm white-fleshed fish)

Salt and pepper

1 teaspoon finely grated ginger

1 teaspoon roasted sesame oil

1 teaspoon black sesame seeds

3 or 4 scallions, sliced thin

Pickled ginger, for serving.

scallions and garnish with a few slices pickled ginger. Serve with stir-fried spinach and steamed rice, if desired. ▲

Yield: 4 servings

QUICK PICKLED GINGER

Time: 1 hour 1 three-inch piece ginger, peeled and sliced very thin
1 red radish, sliced (or 1 slice red beet), optional, for



1. Season each fillet lightly with salt and pepper. Combine ginger and sesame oil in a small bowl, then rub the mixture on the fillets, massaging with fingers to coat evenly.

2. Place the fish in one layer in a baking dish, and tightly cover the dish with foil. Let the fish marinate at room temperature for 15 minutes,

color
1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon sugar
3 tablespoons rice vinegar.

Put all the ingredients in a small jar and stir. Make sure the ginger is submerged. Leave at room temperature for 1 hour. Discard the radish or beet. The ginger may be refrigerated for up to 2 weeks.

Yield: About 2 ounces.

OIL-FREE SPINACH WITH GINGER AND GARLIC

Time: About 5 minutes
2 small garlic cloves, minced
1 half-inch piece ginger, peeled and grated, or finely chopped
1 pound spinach, washed well and drained, thick stems removed
Salt and pepper.

1. Put 1/2 inch water in a large, wide soup pot over high heat. When water boils, add garlic and ginger.

2. Add large handful spinach to the pot. Season lightly with salt and pepper, then twirl with tongs to barely wilt the spinach, about a minute or less. Using tongs, transfer to a serving bowl. Repeat until all the spinach is cooked. ▲

Yield: 4 generous servings. □